Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, January 26, 2017 | Read by more than 57,000 people | Price when sold 70p

ASDA DELIVERY VAN ACCIDENTAL CRUNCH CAUGHT ON CAMERA

The Asda van and Mr Peacock's car

A MAN has been left fuming after his car was damaged when an Asda delivery driver drove into it – then, he claims, it took the company nearly a month to sort the matter out.

Ian Peacock was at his uncle's house on Lion Farm Estate in Oldbury when he heard his car alarm going off.

CCTV of the incident shows an Asda van passing Mr Peacock's Renault Megane, then moments later heading back in the opposite direction.

The CCTV appears to show the van struggling to squeeze past the car and ends up hitting it, causing it to bump forward, before driving off. Mr Peacock, aged 33, ran outside to his Megane after hearing a bang and his security alarm go off.

He found his car had been hit and managed to catch a glimpse of the delivery van driving away.

Mr Peacock, from Oldbury, immediately visited the retail giant's store in Great Bridge with his cousin Luke Martin demanding an explanation after the incident on December 20.

However, he claimed 'no-one was willing to sort the situation' and he said it was some time before he heard back from Asda head office.

Asda bosses said the incident was 'unacceptable' and apologised to Mr Peacock for any inconvenience and upset caused.

Mr Martin said: "The delivery manager apologised to us and said that the driver should have stopped but he didn't and were told to call head office and go back and speak to the general manager of the Great Bridge store but no-one was willing to sort the situation."

Mr Peacock said: "I tried to call the Asda head office various times."

Mr Peacock said he was promised he would hear back from the head office at the supermarket chain various times but claims he never received a call.

He added: "It's caused me a lot of stress as it was over Christmas when I was trying to deal with it all and I wasn't getting anywhere with head office."

An Asda spokesman said: "We're very sorry for any inconvenience and upset caused by this matter and can confirm that the car has since been repaired and returned to Mr Peacock."

POLICE

Two masked raiders target Greggs shop

TWO masked robbers burst into Greggs bakery in Wednesbury and threatened to hurt female staff unless they handed over cash.

The men were dressed in decorator overalls and had their faces almost completely covered when they went into the Union Street store at around 7am last Friday. The robbers stole cash and left the shop. which had no customers inside.

Ward councillor Elaine Costigan, said: "It's terrible for this to happen in Wednesbury. There are CCTV cameras outside so I hope the police are able to catch them."

Police confirmed that they are examining CCTV as part of their investigation but anyone with information is urged to call 101.

'Bigger and better' pledge as events to expand

BOSTIN' £200K FESTIVAL BOOST

THE Black Country Festival will become bigger and better under agreed plans to invest £200,000 in the event and spread it out across all four authority areas.

The three-year scheme will see a Lye-based Balti Festival, more Black Country Beer Festivals and themed night and day events. The plan, which will see three people employed to focus on the event's expansion, will begin this year. It was approved at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership meeting which was held on Monday.

The festival, which started in 2014, celebrates the region's best traditions and attractions during a variety of events held on and around Black Country Day on July 14.

All this has been achieved largely through volunteers, but by setting a three-year budget of £200,000, three paid staff could be employed to help expand the festival. Co-organiser of the festival, Steve Edwards, said: "Over the last three years the festival has been expanding, but to have help through the LEP to make it even bigger will be absolutely fantastic.

Identify

"It started in Dudley, but every year we've added events in neighbouring boroughs, and we would like to add even more." Businesses will be encouraged to sponsor the event in order to raise money, while the Black Country Consortium will also work with Dudley Arts Council to help identify sources of funding.

The report presented by Sarah Middleton, chief executive of the Black Country Consortium Ltd, states: "Over the next three years Black Country Festival Committee believe that they can extend the success of the Black Country Festival in terms of number of events, including more events throughout the year, and the geographical reach by using the template developed successfully in Dudley throughout the other Black Country councils."

Report by Judith Hawkins

The report continues: "Using the success of the Black Country Festival in Dudley as a template and the growth aspired to for 2017, they will work throughout 2017 to develop existing relationships and forge new ones with community groups, businesses and local councils in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton with a view to developing the Black Country Festival in July in these areas, and with a view to extending this further in 2018."

The plan is for the festival to remain primarily focused on Dudley in 2017, with Black Country branded town centre entertainment, a Lye-based Balti Festival, high profile variety nights, business showcases, and extra Black Country Beer Festivals.

The festival committee and staff will use this year's festival to forge new relationships with community groups, businesses and councils in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton with a view to extending the event in 2018. By 2019, it is hoped there will be events across the region.

Super – dog Clark is rescued

Clark the Staffordshire bull terrier puppy, found in a phone box

THE RSPCA is appealing for information after a puppy was abandoned inside a phone box.

The one-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier was found chained up inside a phone box in Quinton Road West, in Quinton, Birmingham, last Tuesday. The puppy has since been named Clark, after Superman alias Clark Kent, who famously emerged from phone boxes as the legendary superhero.

A shocked member of the public was alerted to Clark's plight after hearing whimpering from inside the phone box. They took the pup back home, and called the RSPCA.

Jonathan Ratcliffe, RSPCA inspector, said: "Physically the dog is OK, however he was understandably stressed out from being abandoned. We have no idea where he came from as he was not microchipped, and we don't know how long he was there for – but he is lucky as it is cold and he didn't have any food or water. He's definitely our brave Superdog.

"Clark is now in the RSPCA's care and if no owner comes forward then we will hopefully be able to find him a loving new home."

Anyone who has any information about how Clark came to be abandoned should contact the RSPCA in complete confidence on 0300 123 8018.

CHOIR

Singers preparing to go underground

A CHOIR will really be singing deep in the heart of the Black Country this summer.

Following a concert a few years ago, Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir is returning to perform in the Singing Cavern under Dudley on July 8.

Audience members will be transported by Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust boats for the hour-long concert.

The boat departs at 7pm and will return to the trust's The Portal base for around 9pm. Call 0121 557 6265.

MUSIC

Mott's bass guitarist dies at the age of 69

A BIRMINGHAM-BORN founder member of Mott the Hoople has died aged 69.

Pete 'Overend' Watts, who was born in Yardley, played on the group's best known hit All The Young Dudes, written and produced by David Bowie.

The bass guitarist died on Sunday of cancer – almost a year after that of drummer Dale Griffin. After the group split in 1974, Watts went on to form the bands Mott and British Lions.

He also ran a large retro store in Hereford, and wrote a book, The Man Who Hated Walking, which was published in 2013. He lived just outside Ross-on-Wye.

INSIDE

OH YES IT IS! PANTO CASH

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Museum lands £129k grant for mine

Racecourse Colliery

A COLLIERY will be brought to life after the Black Country Living Museum landed a £129,000 grant.

The Racecourse Colliery was built at the Tipton Road attraction as a typical Black Country coalpit. It was named after the 1846 Dudley Racecourse which was originally on the site.

The grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement will allow visitors to be able to see the colliery in action. The restoration work will begin next month and should be complete by February next year. It will include a repair to the tub tramway so that coal can be transferred by pit pony, installation of atmospheric lighting, and the restoration of a pit cage which shows how miners were lowered into the shaft. Costumed characters will tell the stories of those who worked in the mining industry.

The funding has been awarded to 39 museums across the country. The assessment panel said that they were particularly impressed by the museum's visitor numbers and agreed that the planned renovations would genuinely increase the amount of time visitors spend on site.

The museum's deputy chief Jonathan Wilson said: "The completion of this project will mean the museum is able to provide an immersive and thought-provoking experience for our visitors and give them a real sense of what day-to-day life was like for the people and animals working above a Black Country mine."

The museum also has multi-million pound plans to create a 1960s town.

Disused stations may be put back on track

DISUSED railway stations in Willenhall and Darlaston could be brought back to life as part of a revamp of the train network in the Black Country, transport chiefs have revealed.

The plans to reopen Portobello station in Willenhall and the station in Darlaston are set out in the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's board papers.

Transport bosses have said they still need to secure funding for the project, which is part of a wider plan to rejuvenate transport across the region. Previous proposals to reopen Willenhall and Aldridge stations are also still in the pipeline.

The plans are being worked on by the Transport for West Midlands, which wants to reopen the stations as part of a wider plan to recreate a rail line between Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, the leader of Wolverhampton council, who is the transport lead for the West Midlands Combined Authority, said: "These plans looking at reopening these stations are part of the Transport for West Midlands proposals to recreate the rail link between Wolverhampton and Walsall with intermediate stops."

Freight

Currently passengers looking to get from Wolverhampton to Walsall or vice versa on the train need to go through Birmingham. A direct route between the two Black Country authorities exists however it is only used for freight trains. It was open to passengers until 1965, restored in 1998, then withdrawn again a decade later in 2008.

The rail station at Darlaston, previously known as Darlaston James Bridge railway station, was part of the line but closed in 1965 along with the line.

Darlaston Councillor Paul Bott said he would be supporting the scheme to get the station reopened.

He said: "Me and Councillor Chris Bott are 100 per cent for it. I have seen it function in the past as a railway station when thousands used to use it.

"Residents will be able to commute to Birmingham and Wolverhampton so it will be a necessity and a vital link for the West Midlands."

Retail and leisure hub takes shape

The new St Matthew's development taking shape in Walsall, set to be completed before the year's end

WORK to revitalise Walsall town centre is gathering pace – with the steel frame that will become a new retail and leisure development now in place.

Shop units at Market Square in the St Matthew's Quarter have been bulldozed ready for the site to be transformed with the development of 11 new units for retail and leisure use.

The vision shared by Walsall Council and developers St Modwen is now closer to becoming a reality as the development has taken shape and is expected to be finished this year.

Once finished, the site will officially be referred to as The Quarter and consist of 55,000 sq ft of new retails units including B&M and Poundland who have already signed pre-lets agreements to open next spring.

The work is the second part of a multi-million pound investment in St Matthews Quarter.

Phase One included building the largest town centre Asda superstore in the UK as well as a 1,000 car park which opened in 2007.

Council bosses touted the £25 million project as a 'major demonstration of confidence' in Walsall as a modern day retail location. Plans for the second phase had to be rethought when the listed Shannon's Ill had to be demolished due to a fire in August 2007. The demolition work was originally supposed to begin in 2015 but eventually started in April 2016.

Winnick airs fears over failures on living wage

A WALSALL MP says not enough employers in the Black Country are paying staff the national living wage, leaving people struggling to make ends meet.

David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, has urged the Primer Minister to make sure firms are paying workers the £8.25 per hour rate recognised as the living wage. During a debate in the House of Commons, he said 'too many employees' in the region are struggling to manage on the wages they are paid.

He said: "I argued there should be a minimum wage, and this was of course introduced by the Labour government when it was elected in 1997. Such a minimum is absolutely essential to avoid outright pay poverty, as what occurred previously. However, in my view, such a legal minimum should not be considered a maximum, as in some instances it is by employers; hence the reason for my parliamentary question.

"While I accept that it is for employers to decide on wages – apart of course from the legal minimum – the fact remains that too many employees, including in the Black Country, are receiving a wage which makes it very difficult, particularly for those with families, to manage.

"Indeed, Theresa May, when she became Prime Minister, said she was concerned first and foremost about those who are just about managing."

Pensioners at risk, fears MP

PROPOSED Government changes to benefits for people in supported housing will put Black Country pensioners at risk, an MP has warned.

John Spellar has urged the Prime Minister to rethink plans for housing benefit payments for people in supported housing to be capped in line with Local Housing Allowance levels.

Critics have claimed the changes, due to come in for 2019/20, would lead to many people being unable to afford to live in sheltered housing. The Warley MP said: "Theresa May had an opportunity to ditch Iain Duncan Smith's failed Universal Credit scheme.

"That she hasn't shows she has the same careless attitude as him." He said it was the latest example of the Tories 'piling misery on poorer communities'.

Leading choir in search of voices

A LEADING male voice choir in the Black Country is looking for new blood, requiring singers in all four sections. Walsall Harmonic Male Voice Choir provides after-dinner entertainment and charity concerts for churches, community groups and various organisations.

As well as singers it is seeking a deputy accompanist. A spokesman said: "Anyone interested can come along to our practices on Monday nights at 8pm at the Chuckery Mutual Club, Beacon Street, Walsall, or phone 0121 502 5751, for further information."

Pupils join campaign over fatal accidents

A SAFETY campaign has been launched at a Great Barr school near to where there has been three fatal accidents in the past year.

Pupils have produced signs and banners to urge people to stay safe crossing the busy dual carriageway outside St Margaret's CofE Primary in Birmingham Road.

They launched their campaign with the mayor of Sandwell Councillor Julie Webb, town lead Councillor Steve Melia and the local police and fire service.

Pupils created eye-catching graphics to encourage children, parents and the community to use the crossings and underpass near the school.

Cabinet member for highways Councillor David Hosell said: "There have been three road accident fatalities nearby in the last 12 months – not outside the school, but close enough for road safety to be at the forefront of people's minds and high on the school's priorities.

"The school is working with the council's highways team, the fire service and the police to make the children really aware of road safety.

"The winners of the competition will see their designs made into road signs, and banners outside the school, warning people to cross safely using the underpass or the crossings."

Worried teachers and council highways staff are concerned by the number of people who still cross the A34 without using the pedestrian crossing and the subway – despite there being fencing on the central reservation.

Rugby centre on target for launch

A NEW state-of-the-art rugby union centre on derelict playing fields in Edgbaston is on target for completion at the end of 2017.

Persimmon Homes Central with Bournville Rugby Club is developing the facility on the former Avery and M&B recreation grounds in the Summerfield area. It will include a new pavilion, 3G all-weather sports pitch and two other grass pitches.

In addition to the sports facilities, Persimmon has created 116 new homes at its Avery Fields development off City Road.

Persimmon Homes Central director Neil Williams said: "The scheme has been planned over a number of years working closely with Birmingham City Council's planning team."

Police out to catch egg-throwing yobs

PATROLS have been stepped up by police in Tipton following reports of yobs throwing flour and eggs.

Officers have checked the Farmer Way Estate over the past two days. No further issues have been reported.

Lowest amount of good grades in region

SANDWELL'S secondary schools recorded the lowest proportion of pupils achieving A*-C grades in both GCSE English and maths across the Black Country.

A total of 49.6 per cent of pupils in the city's schools recorded a grade C or higher in the two subjects.

The highest performing area in the Black Country was Wolverhampton where 58.8 per cent of pupils achieved the two grades.

The Progress 8 scores for Wodensborough Ormiston, The ACE Academy and RSA Academy were below the expected 'floor standard' of minus 0.5 set out by the Government.

The Government has said that secondary schools falling below the standard will be considered under-performing.

This year's league tables are the first not to include the proportion of pupils achieving at least five C grades at GCSE, including English and maths. What had been the principle measure has now been scrapped and replaced with the new headline measures, Attainment 8 and Progress 8.

Attainment 8 gauges the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications including mathematics and English, which are double-weighted, three further qualifications that count in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure, and three other qualifications that can be GCSEs or any other approved equivalent qualification.

Progress 8 looks at the progress a pupil makes from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school and compares pupils' results with the achievements of others that have the same prior achievements.

To achieve the EBacc, students must score at least a C grade at GCSE in English, maths, science, history or geography and a language.

This year, the Government has said that secondary schools will be considered under-performing and below the expected floor standard if its Progress 8 score is below minus 0.5, and the upper band of the 95 per cent confidence interval is below zero.

This is the first year that schools and pupils have been assessed under the new system, therefore, the latest results cannot be directly compared with previous years.

MP wants review of how Sandwell Council is run

A BLACK Country MP has called for a Government review of how Sandwell Council is run after a report alleged fraud and misconduct.

A report to the council's audit committee outlined allegations of council houses being given to relatives of Oldbury's Councillor Mahboob Hussain, the council's former deputy leader.

It highlighted land deals concerning compulsory purchase orders involving Mr Hussain and Councillor Babu Bawa.

Both matters have been referred to West Midlands Police.

Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris said he was 'saddened' by the allegations and has demanded an independent review into the governance of the authority.

In a letter to Local Government Secretary Sajid Javid, Mr Morris wrote that the situation with Sandwell Council had 'reached critical point'.

"Many residents of Sandwell, and myself, have lost faith and trust in the council, and feel that urgent intervention is required.

"The council tax payers of Sandwell deserve much more than this."

Trust

Mr Morris asks Mr Javid 'to commission an independent review' of the council with a view to making 'a series of recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the council'.

He added that the review would help to restore trust.

Mr Hussain has accused the council of attempting to smear his character and said: "I will co-operate fully with any investigation as I have done nothing wrong."

Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said he was surprised not to have been contacted directly by Mr Morris. He said: "The fact the council has published the outcome of these investigations and is reporting them to our audit committee, which is open to the public and media, shows that our governance systems are robust and working as they should be."

Council chief executive Jan Britton said: "The council has carried out exhaustive internal investigations into these matters. These were allegations made publicly.

"We have investigated them thoroughly and, where appropriate, we have referred them to the police or the council's monitoring officer."

Bridge crash lorry ripped in two

The lorry's trailer was ripped in two after it hit the bridge. Drivers and rail passengers faced delays

DRIVERS and train passengers faced delays after a lorry ploughed into a rail bridge, ripping its trailer in half.

Services on the Cross City rail line between Lichfield and Redditch were disrupted after the 'bridge strike' in Blake Street, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

London Midland, which runs services on the line, told passengers to expect delays as engineers checked the bridge for damage. The lorry smashed into the crossing, which is marked as a low bridge, at about 7.30am. The truck's trailer was torn in two by the force of the impact.

Birmingham New Street tweeted: "Due to a vehicle striking a bridge at Butlers Lane, services are affected on @LondonMidland." Trains were running as normal shortly after 10am after the bridge was deemed safe by engineers. Motorists were also affected by the smash as the A4026 Blake Street in Four Oaks was closed between Lichfield Road and Little Aston Lane while work to remove the lorry and check the bridge took place.

The driver of the lorry was not hurt. A Network Rail spokesperson said: "Although our bridges are strong, when an incident like this occurs they need to be safety checked before they can be fully reopened."

NEWS IN BRIEF

City rugby centre work is on target

A NEW state-of-the-art rugby union centre on derelict playing fields in Edgbaston is on target for completion at the end of 2017.

Persimmon Homes Central with Bournville Rugby Club is developing the rugby facility on the former Avery and M&B recreation grounds in the Summerfield area of the city.

It will include a new pavilion, 3G all-weather sports pitch and two further grass pitches. In addition to the sports facilities, Persimmon has created 116 homes at its Avery Fields development off City Road.

Ultra fit will be trying DirtRun

A 32-MILE running event starting and finishing at Himley Hall is planned for March 12. The DirtRun Black Country Ultra is in four eight-mile stages and can be tackled by individuals, relay pairs or teams of four.

It is being organised by Pulse Pursuits with Dudley and Sandwell councils and the Canal and River Trust.

One of the sections involves running through the nearly two-mile Netherton Canal Tunnel.

The race will raise funds for the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. Visit www.pulsepursuits.co.uk

£24k handed out to start-up firms

START-UP companies in Birmingham were awarded £24,000 at an awards ceremony. The Entrepreneuring Awards, hosted by Entrepreneurial Spark Powered by NatWest, were handed out at Birmingham Hatchery last Wednesday.

Among the prize winners was Swoopos, a mobile payments systems company, which walked away with £4,000.

Football Road Trips, which creates road trips to European football cities, also secured £4,000.

£3m redesign to create 11 jobs

A HOUSING firm is creating dozens of jobs as part of a £3 million project to transform frontline services for customers.

Bromford is creating 11 jobs in places such as Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell, after undertaking a radical redesign of the way it delivers services.

To do this it has introduced a new role – the neighbourhood coach, who will work on far smaller patches covering around 175 homes within a close proximity rather than over 500.

Education site opens

A REFURBISHED higher education centre will be opened at Halesowen College. It comes as the number of adults wanting to pursue a university level course has increased recently.

The newly refurbished Access Centre will be officially opened at 11am by Camilla Phillips MBE this Saturday.

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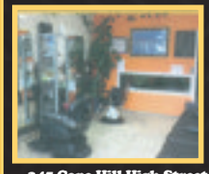
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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ANYONE taking bets on President Trump not completing his first four-year term? I'm not talking about assassination or impeachment but Trump simply getting fed up. Today, he is the star of the world. Tomorrow he will discover how little power he actually has, how much money he is losing, how he and his family's every move and every careless word or Tweet is dogged by the press and social media.

A READER asks, if somebody takes a pot-shot at President Trump, will the bodyguards shout: "Donald, duck!"

THAT great social observer Will Self suggests waspishly that the Army should be scrapped and replaced by giving weapons and training to all 30 million British adults. An assault rifle in every home. What could possibly go wrong?

SOMEONE gave me directions this week including: "You go down that road where the old pub used to be." Can there be a single road in England that does not fit that description? We are a land of lost pubs.

TO my surprise, I have the support of at least one reader who believes human needs should be given priority over wildlife when it comes to turning Swansea Bay into a vast electricity-generation tidal lagoon. He says: "When the wading birds have waded away, within a few months the new environment will be recolonised with new species which like the new conditions."

YOU have probably spotted the tiny problem with the statue of Cilla Black unveiled in Liverpool. In a classic example of the Emperor's new clothes, local people applauded the unveiling without daring to point out that it doesn't look even vaguely like Cilla.

READERS may be reminded of the celebrated "black Diana," the statue of the princess in black granite and unveiled in 2000. It looks nothing like Princess Di but bears a passing resemblance to Denis Norden without his specs. It stands outside a funeral directors in Walsall. Unlike the Scousers, Walsall folk have never kidded themselves it's a good likeness. "Demonic," was one Facebook user's opinion.

ROLF Harris is on trial for sex crimes with the jury told on day one of his previous convictions. He is giving evidence via a video link from prison. If one trial can begin with total disclosure, why can't they all? Many are a legal game where everyone in court, except the jury, knows the defendant is a serial villain with a criminal record, but all conspire to pretend it's the first time they've seen him.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Care workers face job uncertainty

MORE than 100 care workers are facing uncertain futures at a council-run social care service.

A total of 135 frontline staff at Sandwell Council's Short Term Assessment and Re-enablement service are being made to re-apply for their jobs.

The cash-strapped authority says those unsuccessful will be redeployed into others across the council.

STAR provides care for adults including those who have come out of hospital. The council says there are no ideas yet as to how many roles will be going, if any, or what areas staff could be moved to.

Leaders say there will be no 'compulsory redundancies' as part of the move.

Councillor Ann Shackleton, cabinet member for social care, said: "We are restructuring the service and staff are being asked to apply for new roles as part of that restructure. However there are no compulsory redundancies. Under Sandwell Council's Jobs Promise employees are offered training before being redeployed in other roles."

The authority said that the restructure to STAR is still in 'consultation' and no final decision have been made.

A STAR care worker, who wished not not to be named said: "I think it is disgusting they are making us reapply for our jobs."

Ann Shackleton

Owner who stabbed dog in face given jail

Report by Judith Hawkins

A THUG has been locked up for repeatedly stabbing his pet dog in the face and then trying to hide her from police in a confined space.

Michael Bailey, of Tividale, launched a savage attack on Lucky after she urinated on a bag of marijuana at his home.

The 54-year-old punched her in the face and body and then stabbed her numerous times in the face.

Officers were called after the attack was overheard but Bailey told them the dog had run off.

However, following a search of the house in Dale Terrace officers, discovered the frightened dog had been boarded up behind the washing machine and underneath a kitchen worktop.

Bailey was jailed for 12 weeks for causing unnecessary suffering to the dog through physical violence and the infliction of blunt force trauma.

Steps

He was also found guilty of failing to take reasonable steps to ensure that the needs of the dog were met, by failing to meet her need to be in an appropriate body condition.

Bailey was sentenced at Birmingham Magistrates' Court after being found guilty in his absence at the same court in November.

Bailey was disqualified from keeping animals for life and was ordered to pay a £115 victim surcharge over the incident on June 18 last year.

RSPCA inspector Steven Morrall, who investigated, said: "The officers searched the house and initially couldn't find the dog – but then they heard the dog make a sound in the kitchen. They discovered her behind the washing machine under the worktop.

"This was a particularly brutal attack, which left the her eyes so swollen that they were almost closed. On top of this, she was also very thin as a result of neglect."

Lucky made a full recovery, but was later identified by a police dog legislation officer as a banned breed and put down.

Lucky's eyes were closed and swollen by the savage attack from her owner

The extent of the injuries caused to the dog

Lucky was hidden in a tiny space under the worktop

Leader vows to 'clear the swamp' over fraud claims

THE leader of Sandwell Council has vowed to prove that the authority is 'not overrun with crooks' after a new report detailed allegations of fraud and misconduct against councillors.

Councillor Steve Eling says he will 'clear the swamp' following claims of wrongdoing at the council.

The latest report to the authority's audit committee cited a number of matters that had been subject to an internal investigation, two of which had been referred to West Midlands Police.

They include allegations of council houses being given to family members of former deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain. The report also accused Mr Hussain and Councillor Babu Bawa of being involved in questionable land deals via a compulsory purchase order scheme.

It also alleges that Councillor Ian Jones removed a plot of council-owned land from auction so it could be sold to a member of Councillor Mohammad Rouf's family at undervalue.

Councillor Eling said: "The allegations in this report will understandably cause a lot of concern. I want to reassure the public that Sandwell Council is not overrun with crooks.

"I want to make it clear that my aim is to clear the swamp and ensure that any allegations of misconduct and fraudulent behaviour are thoroughly investigated and acted upon."

The report said that during the council's investigation indicators were found 'that suggest potential collusion and fraudulent practice'.

Brum hat in ring to host Games

BIRMINGHAM'S bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games is now out of the starting blocks, with the launch of plans to draw up a feasibility study.

Birmingham City Council has appointed Origin Sports Group to carry out the study during the first quarter of this year, with a final report due by April.

Leading a panel established by Origin is Alan Pascoe MBE, who was vice chairman of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

He has worked on every Commonwealth Games since 1992, helping many cities with their winning bids.

Councillor Ian Ward, deputy leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "Through the feasibility study, we'll know what is needed to make the games work and become a success."

Mayor campaign launch by ex-MP

LABOUR'S West Midlands mayor hopeful described himself as a 'recovering' Westminster politician. Siôn Simon, an MEP and former Birmingham MP, said he was 'poacher turned gamekeeper' as he attacked the country's London-based political system.

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Land work for Metro extension welcomed

SANDWELL councillors have welcomed work to clear land ahead of the proposed multi-million pound extension of the Midland Metro from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill.

The Midland Metro Alliance, working on behalf of West Midlands Combined Authority, is clearing vegetation from overgrown areas of the disused former South Staffordshire Railway line. Work started on the line at Bagnall Street, Tipton and should take two weeks. The ground clearance will mean engineers can then carry out comprehensive structural and environmental surveys.

It is anticipated the construction of the 6.8-mile route will begin during 2019 and the route will open for passenger service in 2023.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell's cabinet member for regeneration and economic investment, said: "We have been pushing for this much-needed extension to the Midland Metro through the West Midlands Combined Authority.

"I am delighted to see this initial on-the-ground work is taking place for a scheme that will ultimately bring great opportunities for Sandwell and the rest of the Black Country."

Councillor Elaine Costigan, Wednesbury town lead member, said: "The Metro extension is good news for Wednesbury.

"It's great to see this clearance work being carried out now to prepare for construction work that's expected to start on the route in a couple of years' time."

Inquest opens on man hit by car

AN inquest has been opened on a man who was killed after being hit by a car on New Year's Eve.

Telhat Mahmood Sadiq, from Blakeley Hall Road, Oldbury, was killed after walking into the road at the junction of Wolverhampton Road South and Hagley Road West while traffic lights were on green.

The hearing was told the 43-year-old had been asked to leave the Amber Tavern pub in Hagley Road West after a time drinking there.

Mr Sadiq hit his head on the windscreen and was carried on its bonnet before he fell off and hit his head on a kerb. Black Country Coroner Zafar Mr Siddique adjourned the inquest until February 14 for further police investigations.

Brum TV station launches on Sky

TV channel Made in Birmingham has launched on Sky Guide 117.

Viewers outside the transmission area can tune in manually by following the link https://www.madeinbirmingham.tv/info/tune-us-in/

Big Apple fans ap-peel for Grannies' visit

US-bound – the Dancing Grannies

START spreading the news . . . the Dancing Grannies have decided to have a rest from the Edinburgh Fringe this year and pop over to the Big Apple.

The Grannies, also known as Black Country comedy act the Fizzogs, will be jetting across the pond in the summer to strut their stuff on the streets of New York city. The move follows numerous requests from American fans who are among more than 300 million people to have viewed the Grannies' dance on social media.

Now the Fizzogs are looking for sponsorship to help fund the trip. Member Deb Nicholls said: "The plan is to take America by storm. We aim to flashmob in New York this summer as the Americans keep asking when we are coming over. It'll cost an arm and a leg to get there so we are looking for sponsorship.The Fizzogs have already been booked to perform their Grannies routines at the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix in April.

Closer to home their new show Suck It And See is currently touring around the Midlands with performances at the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, on February 4, The Steps, Bridgnorth, on February 9, 10 and 11, Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford, on February 18, Core Theatre, Solihull, on March 4.

The tour will feature some of their favourite characters, including the Grannies, the Kids, Mags 'n Barb, tribute band FABA, who are launching a bid to enter the Eurovision Song Contest, gangsta rapper Wayne Kerr and magicians Mr and Mrs Cadabra, as well as a new sketch called Cheaters and Eaters. For tickets info see http://www.thefizzogs.com

Boy scared as thieves take lead from roof

A YOUNG boy was left scared by two thieves who scaled a roof to steal lead. The youngster thought the culprits were going to break into his room in Mountbatten Street, West Bromwich.

Sean McNamara, aged 23, and Nathan Hancock, 20, climbed onto the property and swiped lead worth £50, causing £200 worth of damage in the process.

As the pair struck on December 30, the boy and his mother were inside, listening to the banging outside. The offenders were later seen fleeing the scene by neighbours.

Prosecutor Mark Cooper told Dudley Magistrates Court: "The female occupant of the house was told by her son that he heard noises outside and he thought somebody was trying to get into his bedroom.

"She then heard several loud crashes. The defendants jumped from the roof and were seen by neighbours and members of the public running away from the scene. Police were called and shortly after they arrived they detained the defendants in a neighbouring area."

Weapon

He said McNamara made full and frank admissions when he was arrested, accepting that he and others had taken the lead and had planned to sell it on.

McNamara and Hancock, both of Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, both pleaded guilty to theft. Hancock denied a charge of possessing an offensive weapon.

Seama Kaur, defending McNamara, said: "He moved up to West Bromwich around two months ago. He actually moved up to the West Midlands to try and start afresh after getting involved in criminal activity.

"He saw an opportunity. It was an impulsive decision. He feels disappointed in himself. He was struggling for money at the time. He entered his plea at the earliest opportunity and has co-operated fully with the police."

He was given a 12-month community order with a 15-day activity requirement, ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work and to pay £125 compensation and an £85 victim surcharge.

Vaughan Whistance, for Hancock, said his client also pleaded guilty at the earlier opportunity. He will be sentenced following his trial for possession of an offensive weapon, which will take place on March 8.

Brave Tommy on the ball for Albion

Five-year-old Tommy Brown at the West Bromwich Albion match against Sunderland

A BRAVE five-year-old who has endured multiple amputations delivered the match ball to the Premier League plinth at the latest West Bromwich Albion game.

The Hawthorns fell in love with young Tommy Brown as he made his way out on to the pitch to do the honours before the match with Sunderland on Saturday.

Walsall-born Tommy has shown great courage during his recovery and his family are now fundraising to buy him better prosthetics. He was nominated to deliver the match ball by The Albion Foundation's disability manager Paul Glover after he heard about Tommy on social media.

On watching her son's starring role at the game, mother Julie said: "It made me cry. And he loved it. We are very grateful for everyone at the club for making us so welcome."

The family live on the Beechdale estate in Walsall, and neighbours and friends are helping them in their fundraising efforts to get him better prosthetics. He is currently using NHS-provided ones.

"Why shouldn't he have the best that money can buy, so he can run around and play with other children?" added Julie.

In March 2012, Tommy contracted the 'B strain' of meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia. The disease was so aggressive and extensive that he was given only a five per cent chance of survival.

To make a donation to Tommy's Go Fund Me page go to www.gofundme.com/qpj3as

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holocaust day memorial call

PEOPLE are invited to commemorate National Holocaust Memorial Day in Birmingham on Friday, January 27.

A ceremony will be held in the Banqueting Suite, at the Council House where members of the public can light a candle of remembrance.

The ceremony will also feature survivors' testimonies, poetry from the Young Poet Laureate Nyanda Foday, and performances from the Choir With No Name, King Edward's Handsworth and King Edward's Five Ways grammar schools. The ceremony starts at 1pm and admission is free.

Hearing on crash death adjourned

AN inquest opened on a man who died after his car 'left the road' and crashed into parked vehicles.

Alexandru Catalin Neagu, aged 26, originally from Romania, but living in Sabell Road, Smethwick, died on January 2. His car left the Walsall to West Bromwich Road and crashed into parked vehicles and walls, coming to rest in a garden.

He was declared dead at the scene. Other passengers were taken to hospital with serious injuries. The inquest was adjourned due to an ongoing investigation until March 6.

Family fun day at leather museum

PUPPET shows, walkabout entertainers and face painting will all be on offer at a holiday workshop in Walsall.

The Easter Family Fun Day takes place at Walsall Leather Museum, Littleton Street West, on April 17 from 10.30am to 4pm.

Admission is free, though some of the activities will incur a charge.

For more information visit www.walsall.gov.uk/leathermuseum or call 01922 652288.

Hippodrome stages new ballet production

A NEW adaptation of the ballet movie The Red Shoes is heading to Birmingham.

There will be performances of the production by Matthew Bourne at Birmingham Hippodrome next month and in the summer.

The first run is from February 7 to 11, and the show returns from July 19, to 22.

Tickets for the shows cost from £19.50 and are available via 0844 338 5000.

Classic car show at NEC

THE Birmingham National Exhibition Centre plays host to the UK's fastest growing classic car event from March 31 to April 2.

The Practical Classics Classic Car and Restoration Show features barn finds and special project restorations and a classic car auction sale.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Sweet man who put his town on the map

YOU would need a heart of stone not to laugh at Amber Rudd's speech to the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham last year being recorded by West Midlands Police as a 'hate incident'.

Apparently, a professor of physics called Joshua Silver – sounds more like he should be in Pirates of the Caribbean to me – took offence at something the Home Secretary said and called the police. He hadn't actually heard the speech, but we don't what little details like that to get in the way of a bit of pompous virtue signalling, do we?

Anyway, the good news is that the crime rate is obviously so low in the West Midlands that the Old Bill found time to investigate. They concluded that no crime had been committed, which you might think might would be the end of the matter, but in the strange world of "hate" legislation it is never that simple. If you're found guilty it's a crime, but if you're innocent it is recorded as a "hate incident".

This sort of thing would normally make me livid. But this is the Home Secretary, the figurehead for the establishment which created all this nonsense. Poetic justice is the phrase which springs to mind.

■■■

BY the way, the definition of "hate crimes" on a poster in my local library includes "anything that is offensive to your family." I take it mother-in-law jokes are out, then?

■■■

MANY people in the Black Country will be saddened to hear of the death of Dudley confectioner Ted Gray, aged 81.

Ted, who worked full time until the age of 76, was one of the old school, a type of businessman you rarely find today. A small, quietly spoken man with a proper Black Country accent, he never had any big ambitions or grandiose expansion plans, he just liked sweets and wanted to carry on his family tradition. His tiny, beautifully chaotic office was stacked high with precarious piles of paper, the walls festooned with sepia pictures chronicling the company's history. He lived within walking distance of the factory.

As a journalist, I remember feeling a sense of frustration at this modest, unassuming man's reluctance to deliver any boastful soundbites that would make my job easier. Teddy Gray's shops were selling the classic sweets in jars long before it became fashionable, and even today there is something unmistakably welcoming about them that the new pretenders can't quite emulate.

It is often hard to explain to outsiders what makes the Black Country special, but this unassuming little man had it in spades.

World famous in Dudley, that's what he was. A proper Black Country mon who wouldn't have had it any other way.

Baroness Heyhoe Flint collects her OBE in 2008

With her friend and former Wolves and England boss Graham Taylor

Heyhoe Flint in the World Cup winning year of 73

City ambassador and a sporting trailblazer

As tributes are paid following the death of Baroness Heyhoe Flint, **HEATHER LARGE** looks back on her life and legacy

SHE was known for being a proud Wulfrunian with a heart of gold and a trailblazer for women's sport.

But to her beloved football club, Baroness Heyhoe Flint will always be "Our Rachael – warm, witty, hugely competent and irreplaceable."

As Wolves mourn the loss of their vice-president tributes have flooded in from the world of sport for one of England's finest female cricketers. And there was an outpouring of grief from across Wolverhampton – the city she loved and called home.

Her son Ben says Wolverhampton and Wolves meant everything to the 77-year-old.

"She, the club and the city were intrinsically linked," he said.

Gruelling

Baroness Heyhoe Flint was still a familiar and much-loved face at Molineux up until her recent illness. She was a proud supporter of the club in continuing to take a keen interest in Wolves' charity and community work despite her own gruelling schedule.

"She went to every game when she was a director, home and away, rain or sleet, bottom of the table or top of the table. For 30 years it was the mainstay of her life," added Ben.

Wolves club secretary Richard Skirrow said: "We have lost a really special lady. I've known her well for over 20 years. You felt you knew her well from the first meeting as she was such a warm and engaging person. Rachael was a bundle of energy; tireless, always on the move and always, it seemed, happy.

"Her many achievements will be well documented and for her charity fundraising alone she should perhaps have been more highly decorated but, at Wolves, she'll just always be "our Rachael" – warm, witty, hugely competent and irreplaceable."

At the Molineux home of her beloved Wolves, where she served as vice president

Born on June 11 1939 to PE teachers Roma Crocker and Geoffrey Heyhoe, the former Wolverhampton Girls High School pupil excelled at sport from an early age and later taught PE.

She went on to play a pivotal role in developing women's cricket, captaining England during a career which spanned two decades, and leading her country to victory in the 1973 World Cup.

During her first House of Lords speech in 2011, she said: "My challenges in sport began with garden cricket aged seven with my brother and his friends.

"I wasn't allowed to bat for three years because girls don't play cricket. When I did eventually get to bat, the boys couldn't get me out for three days, so in the middle of June they decided it was the football season."

It was while playing cricket that she became friends with Sir Jack Hayward when he sponsored the women's team in 1970. Years later she still credited him with playing a major role in providing her with the platform to make a name for herself.

Baroness Heyhoe Flint became the first woman to be admitted to the MCC when her playing career ended and in 2004 she became the first woman elected to the full committee. She later became the first woman to be inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.

Ben added: "Women's cricket was an unknown sport then, and under-funded, which is where her wonderful friendship with Sir Jack Hayward started. There was a lot of bigotry in sport then and she faced real barriers. But she was a trailblazer.

"She applied to the MCC under the radar as R.Flint. As the MCC started to process her application they thought she was a bloke.

"They suddenly realised there was a woman applying. The MCC held a referendum on female members and after a second referendum it got through.

"I was there the day the vote was passed at Lords, it was just amazing. She has been a great role model."

Later Baroness Heyhoe Flint became a successful journalist – working for the Express & Star and as sports editor on the Wolverhampton Chronicle – and an award-winning after dinner speaker.

After Sir Jack took over Wolves in 1990, Baroness Heyhoe Flint became heavily involved in the club's public relations department, From 1997 to 2003 she served as a director at Sir Jack's request, later being made a vice-president.

She was President of the Lady Taverners from 2001 to 2011 and a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands. In 2008 she received her OBE from the Prince of Wales and two years later was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

Honoured

In 2011 she was honoured by her home city by being granted the Freedom of Wolverhampton. She was also inducted into Wolverhampton's Sporting Hall of Fame.

Ben said: "A lot of people had wonderful things to say about her over the years but to me she was just mum. She was a great person, a legend in terms of the simple things like her sportsmanship and the love of her family.

"She was just a giving person, always thinking about other people, not herself. It was almost impossible for me to keep track of everything she was doing."

Huge crowds are expected at Baroness Heyhoe Flint's funeral on February 8. A funeral cortege will leave Molineux at 2pm and make its way to St Peter's Church. Some fans will be able to attend church, but via a ballot. Numbers will be limited due to the amount of people expected to pay their respects.

To apply for a place, email fans@wolves.co.uk with Rachael Heyhoe Flint in the subject line, and include a name, address and supporter number. It will be family flowers only at the funeral.

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Little food for thought over standards

WE are constantly being advised by those in power, that the NHS is not in crisis. During my working life, I have been in jobs where we were overstretched, but whenever a visit was to be made by those at the top, we were told to keep our desks clear so that our visitors were given a false impression of the way in which we were having to work.

Of course this showed our important visitors that everything was fine and that no problems existed, as it probably still does now. Two years ago when my wife was in hospital, I complained about the food, but was told that no-one had complained before.

My response was that people are afraid to complain. As someone from a butchery background, I do know something about meat in particular. We hear much about food wastage at the moment and I feel sure that much of this is in hospitals where food is prepared and cooked miles away from the hospital and reheated before being given to the patients. Surely in this day and age we deserve better than this.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Thanks for poppy push

RE: RBL Tipton Poppy Appeal.

I would like to thank everyone who helped us to raise the wonderful sum of £30,834.15 to date.

Without the help of the following it could not have been possible – Asda stores both Great Bridge and Tipton, the Co-op Union Street Tipton, schools, clubs, pubs, offices, factories, people who come to us with tins, jars and plastic bags with money they have saved over the year, ladies who knitted poppies and handed them to us, the lady who donated her birthday money and donations given to us, and of course the public who give so generously.

The people who help with the count and Lloyds Bank who very kindly check it for us. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

ISABEL BEEBEE
(Appeal Organiser)
RBL Tipton

Fundraise record of nearly £10k

ON behalf of Tipton Community Association I would like to thank all the people who gave us a wonderful reception and generously supported us through the collections during the annual Christmas Santa Sleigh Tour of Tipton and surrounding districts.

The amount raised was a record £9,555. 51.

This was fantastic.

Thanks to members, volunteer collectors and drivers who gave their time and efforts on very cold and sometimes wet and windy evenings.

I would also like to thank everyone who supported our events throughout 2016, it is very much appreciated.

There will be a Gala Evening on Friday, January 27, at Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton, when we will be presenting donations to various charities.

Full details of the event will be available from the centre.

BARRY R WHITEHOUSE
Patron
Tipton Community Association

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Hospital beds issue that won't go away

COVERAGE of Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust's plan to review available bed space when the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital opens omits to mention the impact of the state of social care services on hospital admissions and on preventing speedy discharge of patients.

The last trust meeting received a report of the lack of funding and social care capacity to prevent hospital admissions and heard that up to 10 patient discharges a day are delayed awaiting packages of care from Sandwell Council.

Up to 18 patients a day are waiting in hospital for nursing home places.

Social care services in Sandwell and Birmingham have been significantly cut over six years as a result of Government austerity policies. In England, 400,000 fewer people are now receiving social care than in 2005.

New funding from the social care precept, to be added to Council Tax, and the Better Care Fund, are not adequate to remedy the major cuts that have already taken place, let alone meet increasing needs. SWBH Trust is sensible to review the bed capacity needed for the new hospital but the private finance business case for building the new hospital with a major reduction in acute beds now increasingly appears as an act of folly.

John Caffrey, Secretary
Keep our NHS
Public Birmingham

Rare gent in footie world

THE sudden death of Graham Taylor has cast a long shadow over the world of football, and a manager that cared has suddenly gone.

He was a no nonsense type of bloke that gave respect to the game, his time in the Midlands brought success to Villa and a good job done at the Wolves.

Unfortunately his international career faltered but despite this he held his head up high.

A nice genuine bloke in football, and in today's game, as rare as chicken's teeth.

S T VAUGHAN
Birmingham

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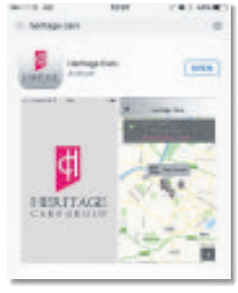

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Outlets meat trouble over mutton dressed as goat

CHECKS on meat and dishes claiming to contain goat meat showed more than half were actually lamb or mutton, Sandwell Council's trading standards team has revealed.

Trading standards officers visited takeaways, butchers' shops, supermarkets and restaurants selling goat meat and dishes.

Nineteen samples were taken of raw and frozen meat, curries and other dishes and 11 of them were found to be mis-described – theyactually contained lamb or mutton.

Substitution of one meat for another is a criminal offence under Section 14 of the Food Safety Act 1990. The offence is fraud by deceiving a consumer into buying something they did not want or expect. By substituting goat for often cheaper meat, the offence also saves the business money and creates unfair competition.

Offenders may face fines of up to £20,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months if they are prosecuted in a magistrates court. Trading Standards investigations into the offences are continuing.

Choice

Cabinet member for public health and protection, Councillor Preet Gill said: "Clearly it's unacceptable that our officers have found businesses selling lamb and mutton as goat. It's important that consumers know exactly what they are purchasing so that they can make an informed choice about what they eat. Everyone has the right to know exactly what they are eating."

Trading Standards and licensing manager Bob Charnley said: ''It's our job to ensure that food is correctly described and labelled. We will speak to all the offending businesses and take any appropriate enforcement action necessary to ensure they comply with the rules in the future.''

Exhibition to focus on south Asia

THE Library of Birmingham has been awarded more than £90,000 in a National Lottery Heritage bid to stage a major exhibition and public programme celebrating South Asian culture.

The Documenting Histories project is a partnership celebrating the important role South Asian culture has played in forming Birmingham's history and identity. At the heart of the project is a major exhibition which will open in July, drawing on both libraries' rich collections, supported by a programme of complementary events and workshops during 2017.

This will explore Britain's South Asian heritage, examining the contribution made by South Asian people to Birmingham and the UK.

Councillor Ian Ward, deputy leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "Our city's greatest strength is the energy, creativity and diversity of its people."

How much? Drivers face fuel price lottery

Motorists fill up at the petrol pumps at the Asda superstore in Brickhouse Lane South, Great Barr

THE cheapest and most expensive petrol stations in Sandwell have been revealed with drivers facing a lottery of fuel costs at the pumps.

The figures from a week long petrol price watch show Sandwell is one of the best places to fill up in the Black Country. Asda on Queslett Road in Great Barr, proved to be the cheapest in the area for unleaded petrol, costing just £1.147 per litre. It was also cheapest for diesel at £1.177 per litre, according to the figures. For unleaded, this was closely followed by Morrisons on Trouse Lane, Wednesbury, which offered it at £1.157 per litre and they also offered diesel at £1.177 per litre.

The most expensive garage proved to be in Rowley Regis where unleaded petrol is priced at £1.209, although PetrolPrices.com didn't confirm which garage that was. Ninder Johal, member of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and former president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "I think prices will go up because of a few factors. Firstly the oil companies producing the oil have reduced the supply, meaning there is less to fill a higher demand.

"Also, with Brexit, the currency has devalued which means the price we pay for oil is more. The majority of the money we pay for fuel is taxation by the UK government."

NHS teams shortlisted for awards

TWO clinical teams at an NHS trust have been shortlisted for national awards following their impressive work with patients suffering from long-term conditions.

The Rheumatology Department and the FINCH team at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals have been recognised by the 2017 Health Service Journal's Value in Healthcare Awards. Both sets of clinicians have demonstrated their excellent work in improving value and efficiency in healthcare.

The Rheumatology Department has transformed its services, which means patients no longer have to stay overnight at the hospitals to be monitored.

In addition, the team's consultants visit GP surgeries every week to see patients in the community and ensure they have all the support that they need right at home.

Holistic

Professor Karim Raza from the Rheumatology team, said: "The entire Rheumatology team at SWBH are delighted to have been shortlisted for this important award. The team prides itself on holistic multidisciplinary care, underpinned by a strong research tradition and are delighted that the HSJ judging panel have recognised this."

The multi award-winning FINCH team impressed the judges with its constant effort in ensuring patients have the right treatment for continence conditions without having to travel far from their home.

Kelly Stackhouse, lead nurse for the FINCH team, added: "We are honoured to be shortlisted and it's such an achievement to get our work recognised.

"The quality of life for patients using our service has vastly improved. Importantly, the continued national recognition means we are reaching out to more people so they don't suffer in silence."

Growing Bevan in move across the Black Country

HALESOWEN-BASED transport services company The Bevan Group has opened its new headquarters in Wednesbury.

The opening of the new site on the Wednesbury One industrial estate in December capped the company's 40th year in business and came after a £500,000 refit.

The group has grown to employ more than 300 people, 180 of them across its previous head office in Halesowen and at a second base in Oldbury.

The new base in Wednesbury includes a 17,000 sq ft factory and 5,000 sq ft of offices. Growth within Bevan's aftercare division was the key driver behind the move to a new headquarters.

Turnover for the aftercare operation, which maintains and repairs commercial vehicle bodies and ancillaries, has shot up from £1.3 million to £6.3m in just three years.

The HQ at Wednesbury One, which marked 40 years for the firm when it opened

Inside Bevan Group's huge new headquarters in Wednesbury

Graphics

This achievement, coupled with continued expansion within its rigid truck and van bodybuilding, graphics (vehicle livery) and passport operations, saw Bevan claim 15th spot on a recent list of the Black Country's top 50 fastest-growing companies.

The move was completed shortly before Christmas and the new site is located, close to Junction 9 of the M6.

Bevan has retained the production facility in Amber Way, Halesowen, which had served as its head office since 2006 and is now undergoing a major facelift, as well as a second base in Blakeley Hall Road, Oldbury.

The aftercare division's 44 field-based engineers provide commercial vehicle operators nationwide with planned and emergency support covering ancillary equipment such as cranes, tail-lifts and roller shutter doors, as well as bodywork of all kinds.

They are managed by a team of 27 operations controllers located at the new headquarters, where four of the main bays in the factory have also been assigned to aftercare.

Simon Dryburgh, who was recently promoted from general manager to director, said: "When I joined Bevan in 2013 we had four people in the office and 11 vans out on the road.

"I recognised, however, the huge potential to expand the operation by providing customers with a comprehensive portfolio of fast, efficient maintenance and repair services, undertaken either at their premises or, should the need arise, at the roadside, on a 24/7 emergency call-out basis."

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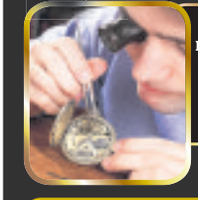

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Picture of 9 Locks taken in the 1950s

The blue line from top left going down in a straight line and then across and up to the top right in an L shape is the proposed canal

Picture was on display of the Ironworks in the 1800s

'Rebirth' of canal line

AN historic canal line which was buried more than half a century ago could be brought back to life as part of a £7.5 million restoration project.

The Bradley Arm Canal which runs through Wolverhampton,Walsall and Sandwell, could once again carry boats if plans are given approval.

The proposals moved a step forward when they were shown to residents at a meeting held by project organisers who say the feedback has been 'around 60 to 70 per cent' in favour.

Project organisers said the canal would provide numerous benefits to the community, such as health, wellbeing, heritage and education. But some residents protested, claiming the new canal would increase anti-social behaviour and rodent population around nearby homes.

The former canal line, which was closed in 1954, stretches around 1.5 miles from Bradley Lane in Bilston to Bilston Road in Tipton. Cash to deliver the project would by funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Organisers from the Inland Waterways Association would have to apply for the funds. The Wednesbury Oak Loop Canal would join up with the Walsall Canal if the former stretch of canal were to be revived. Project organisers say the plans are only proposals at the moment. Three meetings have been held with residents since March to gauge to the reaction of communities living nearby.

The latest one was held at Tipton Sports Academy Social Club where heated exchanges between residents took place. One woman from Andrew Road in Tipton, who was against the proposals but wished not to be named, said: "I am against the proposals because the particular row of houses where we live would be literally 10 feet from the canal.

"I think anti-social-behaviour would also be

Stephen Burt from the Canal & River Trust and West Midlands Waterways Partnership

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Rep raises £700 for Options charity

The cast of Dick Whittington at Oldbury Rep who made the charity collection after performances at the Barlow Theatre

OLDBURY Rep's annual Panto charity collection has raised over £700 for the charity, Options for Life, thanks to the generosity of audiences attending this year's production of Dick Whittington.

Written by Rep member Ian Thompson, the panto ran for 10 performances at the Barlow Theatre, Langley – the home of Oldbury Rep, bringing a smile to audiences of all ages. The panto's final performance was on Saturday January 14 and played to 95 per cent capacity.

This year's chosen charity, Options for Life, is a not for profit charitable business providing a range of innovative opportunities for people with learning disabilities.

The group supports people with learning disabilities to live their lives to the full and advance their personal development, enabling them to enjoy the same rights and opportunities as non-disabled people.

Charities

Further information can be obtained from their website: www.optionsforlife.info or by phone on 0121 544 6611.

A spokesman for Oldbury Rep said: "We are pleased to be able to support both local and national charities throughout the year, thanks to the continued generosity of our audiences, even in these continuing difficult financial times.

Meanwhile, the Rep's special screenings continue at the end of February.

Highlights for the spring/summer season will include Sully, starring Tom Hanks, the highly acclaimed United Kingdom and later in the season La La Land. All performances start at 7.30pm. All films are shown on the rep's 16ft screen with high quality digital projection in the theatre's 170 seat auditorium. Tickets are just £4.00.

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A van driver goes through the water watched by residents

The sun sets as the extent of the flooding is revealed

A view of the source of the floodwaters by the side of Beaconview Road, West Bromwich

Another larger-wheeled vehicle takes on the flooded route

The flood proves impassable for cars

Cars stalled by floods

A WATER pipe burst on a busy Black Country road, close to homes and causing traffic disruption.

The pipe burst on Beaconview Road in West Bromwich, last Friday afternoon, with the water reaching heights of up to three feet.

The water main burst at around 3pm, sending water flowing down the street, towards A4037 Walsall Road.

Police and fire services were alerted to the flooding and engineers from South Staffs Water tried to resolve the issue.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Neil Spencer said: "Six inches of water flooded the road and is fast moving towards homes."

Bus services in the area were diverted.

Simon Tandy, nearby homeowner, watched as the water levels rose.

Speaking at the time, he said: "According to the engineers I've spoken to from South Staffs Water, the pipe provides over 10,000 houses with water.

"The flooding has been constant for quite some time now and hasn't eased off at all – it's been moving at quite an alarming rate to say the least.

"The volume of water is absolutely insane, I've never seen a flood like it and I'm quite tense about my house as it's slowly coming closer."

South Staffs Water were alerted to the burst main and sent out a team of engineers to carry out repairs.

In the water is resident Julie Phillips

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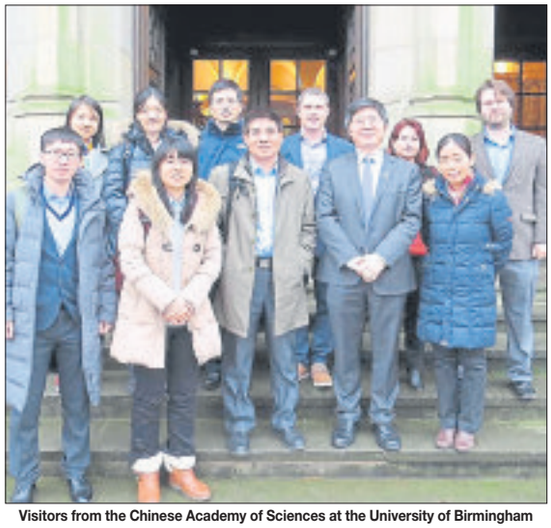
Chinese ecology experts join with city uni boffins

ENVIRONMENTAL experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) visited their counterparts at the University of Birmingham to continue work on a research partnership that could help solve major problems facing both countries.

Just two weeks after an inaugural joint workshop in Beijing, discussions continued in Birmingham about how joint research could help to reduce the health threat posed by severe air pollution blighting the Chinese capital and other major cities in China.

Researchers also explored ways in which to combine expertise in chemistry, hydrology, toxicology and biology to solve problems associated with pollutants that are increasingly threatening China's natural fresh water ecosystems that over 1.3 billion people depend on.



Visitors from the Chinese Academy of Sciences at the University of Birmingham

Masters

China's Ministry of Environmental Protection describes its waters as toxic, estimating that 60 per cent of China's rivers, and 80 per cent of underground wells, suffer from pollution to such an extent that they can no longer be safely used as drinking water.

The UK visit also saw University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) representatives agree in principle to work with their Birmingham counterparts to establish a postgraduate programme that would see students awarded joint PhD and Masters degrees from both universities.

Professor Jon Frampton, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director of the University of Birmingham's China Institute, said: "China's problems were once our problems – the environmental issues faced by the Chinese people are similar to the problems created by Britain's own industrial revolution."

"As a global 'civic' university, we have a responsibility to enriching the life of our home city and the wider world. We are proud to welcome our partners at the Chinese Academy of Sciences to the University of Birmingham, as we continue to work together on finding common solutions to shared problems. We believe our joint efforts can make a significant contribution to helping China balance economic development against environmental health protection."

The inaugural joint workshop on January 5 at the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Beijing, was opened by University of Birmingham Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir David Eastwood and former Vice President of CAS Professor Jinghai Li and involved eight Birmingham scientists.

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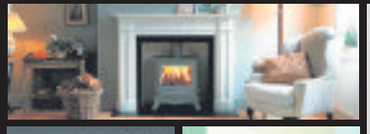

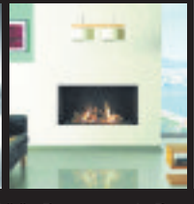

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Lawson's art talent is a festive bonus

Roger Harris with Lawson and head teacher Kelly Duff

THE winner of the Sandwell Chronicle Christmas Card Challenge for 2016 was three-year-old Lawson Loach, of West Bromwich. The Chronicle wrongly referred to Lawson as Logan in the newspaper printed on January 12 and would subsequently like to apologise to Lawson and his family.

The St Mary Magdalene CoE Primary School pupil proudly received his prize, comprising 25 copies of his design which Lawson was able to send out as Christmas cards to his family, special framed version took pride of place in his home and will be a permanent fixture each Christmas and the school received £50 and the school council will decide how this is spent along with the help of the children.

Coroner seeks family

A CORONER is seeking information about a man who died at Sandwell General Hospital last week.

Janis Puzaks, who was 59, is believed to have been born in Latvia but was of no fixed address when he died on January 16. The Black Country coroner is keen to determine if he had any family. Anyone with information is asked to call Russell Williams, at the Coroner's Court, Jack Judge House, Halesowen Street, in Oldbury, on 0121 569 7200, or email Russell_williams@sandwell.gcsx.gov.uk

No-flame cremations with £300k machine

A Black Country crematorium is set to get a new £300,000 machine, which uses eco-friendly chemicals rather than flames.

The eco-friendly device is said to be the first of its kind in the UK. Called the Resomator, is already used in parts of America and speeds up the cremation process while producing less harmful emissions.

By Judith Hawkins

Estimated to cost in the region of £300,000, the new system is set to be brought in as part of the £1.3 million revamp of Rowley Regis Crematorium off Powke Lane.

The scheme uses cutting edge technology which means the bodies of loved ones will be turned to ashes using water-based chemicals. A special wool coffin is placed into the Resomation chamber, and then body tissues are rapidly broken down through hydrolysis in an alkaline solution, leaving pure white bone ash.

This can be returned to bereaved families in an urn as it is following a traditional cremation.

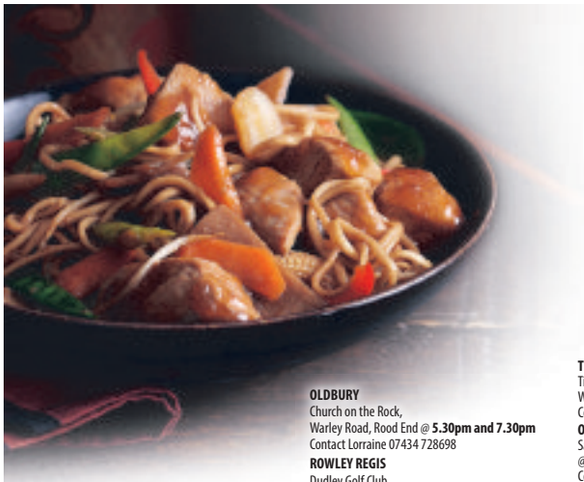
The process which takes on average three to four hours is considered an eco-friendly alternative to traditional cremation because there are no emissions from the facility and the machinery is said to emit no significant noise. However the council will need to consult Severn Trent Water, as any waste from the unit would be pumped to the main drainage on the site.

An application for the inclusion of the Resomator in the crematorium's expansion has been submitted to planners this week.

In a statement from Sandwell Council attached to the application, it states: "Resomation allows individuals and families to express their environmental concerns and values in a very positive manner with one of their final actions in life."

The device is produced in West Yorkshire, but so far only three are in operation in America.

The Rowley Regis crematorium is one of two UK sites being considered for taking on a Resomator.



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SMETHWICK
Brasshouse Community Centre
Brasshouse Lane @ **7.30pm**
Contact Mel 07935 447265
TIPTON
Allens Sports and Social Club
Newall Street, @ 9.**00am, 11.00am, 1.00pm,3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Lorretta 07968 656634
GREAT BRIDGE
St Peter's Church Hall,
Whitehall Road, @ **5.30pm and 7:30pm**
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
WEDNESBURY
Central Methodist Church (Wesley Centre)
Spring Head @ **7.30pm**
Contact Michelle 07857 280882
OLDBURY
St James C of E Church,
Shelsley Avenue, @ **7.00pm**
Contact Claire 07539 950447
OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Lorraine 07434 728698
ROWLEY REGIS
Dudley Golf Club
Turners Hill, B65 9DP @ **7.00pm**
Contact Sarah 07875 445462

TUESDAY
OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ **9.30 am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Julie 07505 084916
OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ **9.15am and 11.15am**
Contact Lorraine 07434 728698
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road,@ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Leisure Centre,
Moor Street, @ **9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Pippa 07816 900149
WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate,
@ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Karen 07547 515345
TIPTON
Tipton Christian Church
Waterloo Street, **5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Lisa 07514 607650
OLDBURY
Sainsbury's, Freeth Street,
@ **5.30pm & 7.30pm**
Contact Ann 07815 643963
DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.30am, 11.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Lesley 01922 634883
BRADLEY
St Martin's Church
SlaterStreet, @ **9.30am, 11.30am, 5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Jodie 07547 771319
ROWLEY REGIS
Rowley Regis Disability Centre
26 Rowley Village, B65 9AT **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

WEDNESDAY
WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ **9.30am**
Contact Jodie 07886 426429
DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.30am**
Contact Lesley 01922 634883
SMETHWICK
Dorothy Parkes Centre,
Church Road, **9.30am 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Mel 07935 447265
WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ **9.30am**
Contact Karen 07547 515345
WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909
WEDNESBURY
St Luke's Church, Elwell Street,
Mesty Croft, **7.00pm**
Contact Jodie 07751 839830
BLACKHEATH
Blackheath Central Meth Church,
High Street, @ **9.30am, 11.30pm, 5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Ann 07815 643963
OLDBURY
The Salvation Army Community Church,
Merton Close (off Pound Road) @ **7.30pm**
Contact Lorraine 07434 728698
TIVIDALE
St Michael's Church
Tividale Road, B69 2LQ @ **5.00pm and 7.00pm**
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

THURSDAY
OLDBURY
PortwayLifestle Centre,
Newbury Lane @ **7.00pm**
Contact Claire 07539 950447
WEDNESBURY
Lea Brook Church Hall
Leabrood Road North @ **7.30pm**
Contact Lin 07902 079559
TIVIDALE
Ormaston Sandwell Community Academy
Lower City Road @ **7.00pm**
Contact Sarah 07875 445462
WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library
Beverley Road @ **9.30am, 11.30am and 1.30pm**
Contact Lisa 07514 607650
WEDNESBURY
St Bart's Church Hall,
Bttm Church Hill @ **9.30am**
Contact Jenny 07751 259593
TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ **9.00am, 11.00am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954
SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ **3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Michelle 07516 255665
BRANDHALL
Kings Community Church,
Oak Tree Centre, Tame Road @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Dawn 07859 010175
WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library,
Beverley Road, @ **5.30pm and 7.30pm**
Contact Carole 07854 413929

FRIDAY
SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ **9.30am**
Contact Michelle 07516 255665
ROWLEY REGIS
Rowley Regis Disability Centre
26 Rowley Village, B65 9 @ **9.30am**
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

SATURDAY
WEDNESBURY
Lea Brook Church Hall,
Leabrook Road North @ **8.00am**
Contact Lin 07902 079559
OLDBURY
Peters Well Community Centre
(Lightwoods Primary School)
Clent Road, B68 9ER @ **8.00am and 10.00am**
Contact Kerrie07923 129816
DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ **9.00am**
Contact Lesley 01922 634883
OLDBURY
Portway Lifestyle Centre,
Newbury Lane, B69 1HE @ **9.00am and 11.00am**
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

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Strike action over guards

CONDUCTORS on London Midland trains are being balloted for strike action over the addition of security guards.

London Midland introduced private security contractors onto certain services over the Christmas period, after a long period of negotiations with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT).

It says the move is designed to improve passenger and staff safety, having targeted trains that were particularly plagued by anti-social behaviour – and insists it will not be removing conductors. But the union has objected to the scheme, saying that the presence of the security contractors could actually escalate problems on the trains.

A ballot of the RMT's 523 conductor members is to run until February 2.

The union is balloting members over both strike action and industrial action which falls short of a strike such as refusing to work overtime.

Summits due over borough's poor exam results standings

SANDWELL'S education boss will demand meetings with headteachers over exam results which are among the worst in country.

Councillor Simon Hackett said he would hold crisis talks at secondary schools as well as academies, which are run independently of Sandwell Council.

The borough's schools were ranked a lowly 147th out of 158 local authority areas in school league tables published last week.

Sandwell Council's leader Steve Eling said the results were evidence the Government's policy of encouraging secondary schools to become academies had failed.

Councillor Hackett, head of children's services at the authority, insisted there must be improvement in classrooms and that he would be looking to meet with heads. He said: "Some of the results are disappointing and I will be meeting with head teachers to discuss what they going to do to bring about an improvement to the education of our young people.

"We met with heads last year to discuss ways to improve the situation but so far the impact of this will not yet have shown up on the results of July examinations.

Deserve

"We have put in a substantial amount of support in a bid to improve maths and we are now working with the schools and Government inspectors to improve literacy.

"I want to make it clear that these figures have got to improve because young people and their parents, families and carers deserve better.

"I will want to know from the head teachers what they are going to do to turn the situation around. In the primary schools there has been improvements and we are working with secondary schools to ensure that these children continue to improve in the run-up to their GCSEs.

"Most of the schools are academies and we will be working with them to improve the situation because our young people deserve the best possible start in life we can give them.

"Some of the indicators from the Government report show that there has been improvement in some areas since 2015 and I want to see further advances, based on the council's support and the improving standards coming from the primary schools."

Travellers moved on

TRAVELLERS moved from private land in Tipton after police were called.

The caravans arrived at the site off Hobart Road on Tuesday. The police were called on the same day and an eviction notice was served on Wednesday.

The order required the travellers to leave the land by 8.30am on Thursday.

A support unit for West Midlands Police were called to break a padlock, gaining access to the illegally occupied site.

A police spokesman said: "Police attended the site again, the travellers left peacefully and no arrests were made."

Pub hit by arsonists transforms into vets

The former Queen's Head pub on Londonderry Lane in Smethwick which is being being turned into a vets

A FORMER pub which was hit by arsonists has been transformed into a vets following a £1.3 million investment.

The Queen's Head in Smethwick was left in a derelict state following the fire – until the veterinary clinic stepped in.

The building, in Londonderry Lane, has undergone a major revamp over the last few months and will open its doors at the end of January as YourVets24.

The opening of the vets has led to the creation of 17 jobs.

The Queen's Head was popular with Baggies fans before and after games over the years and was previously described by Smethwick councillor Richard Marshall as 'one of the last main pubs in Smethwick'.

Fire ripped through it in May 2014 in a suspected arson attack. Its crumbling state led to questions over its future.

A housing development was planned for the site but never came to fruition.

The new clinic will include two operating theatre suites, five consulting rooms and will have the facilities to carry out ultrasounds and digital radiography.

There will also be a waiting room with designated areas for cats and dogs and enhanced parking spaces for customers.

Carrie Borthwick, practice manager at the branch, said: "The opening of our gorgeous new clinic is hugely exciting for the team and we can't wait to officially open the doors.

"We're looking forward to offering services to our new furry friends in Smethwick when we open later this month."

Smethwick councillor Linda Horton said she was pleased the former pub had been brought back into use.

She said: "I think it's brilliant. It's great that they have been able to save the building and we have not lost it.

"There was a fire there and it was in a really bad state. It's good they have been able to renovate it."

Work on 27 homes is now under way

SANDWELL'S housing boss has welcomed the start of a redevelopment scheme for which will see 27 council homes built in the borough.

The houses and bungalows are being built across four existing council-owned sites under the £4 million project.

The houses will be built on Gladstone Street and Monmouth Drive in West Bromwich, Hilton Road in Tividale and Ladbury Road in Yew Tree.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for housing, said: "It's great to see that building work is now under way.

"We have a continuing demand for affordable rented properties, particularly houses in Sandwell.

"There is also a need for bungalows, which are being built on this site, particularly from older tenants, who may want to move to small and easier to manage properties all on one level."

Jackie leads initiative to help with rare illnesses

A 58-year-old mother who has suffered from a rare genetic condition all her life has joined a ground-breaking project to help prevent others suffering.

As a child and young woman Jackie Watkins from Great Barr was repeatedly in and out of hospital with a variety of serious ailments.

Her constant illnesses took their toll on both her and her family, with her mother having a breakdown brought on by all the worry.

It wasn't until Jackie was 25 and following a stillbirth that she was finally diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis, a rare genetic condition with symptoms that include seizures and epilepsy, learning disabilities, autism, skin abnormalities and the growth of benign tumours on the kidneys.

Jackie Watkins from Great Barr, who is a leading medical campaigner

Understanding

Jackie has now joined the ground-breaking 100,000 Genomes Project in the hope that it may help prevent other children having to go through the same ordeal in the future.

The nationwide programme aims to increase understanding of certain rare diseases and cancers by collecting and sequencing 100,000 genomes from 70,000 participants.

It is hoped that increased knowledge of these conditions will improve diagnosis and lead to more personalised care as well as, in some cases, new treatments and potential cures.

Jackie said: "My poor mother had 25 years of not knowing what was wrong. She was at her wit's end and eventually had a breakdown because no-one could tell us what was wrong with me.

"I regularly had problems with co-ordination and seizures and then my mouth started looking deformed and I began to get a facial rash," added Jackie. "Then I started to get urine and kidney infections which went on through my teens. I lost a lot of schooling and had trouble learning."

After meeting and marrying husband Pete, Jackie suffered a still birth and it was not until she was pregnant for a second time, with daughter Tracy, that her condition was finally diagnosed. "I was sent to the Women's Hospital and the gynaecologist took one look at my face and asked how long I'd had the rash," she said.

"When I told him I'd had it for as long as I could remember he said, 'I know what you've got,' and it wasn't until then, when I was 25, that we finally got a diagnosis."

Since being diagnosed Jackie has suffered several renal bleeds and eventually had surgery to remove benign tumours from both of her kidneys.

She is now on medication to control her various symptoms and undergoes regular scans at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB) to assess her kidneys.

Jackie is an avid campaigner to raise awareness of tuberous sclerosis and supports any initiatives or research that may help to improve diagnosis, understanding and treatment of the condition.

QEHB kidney consultant Dr Lukas Foggensteiner said: "Jackie's story is very typical of someone with a rare disease. "Thanks to the 100,000 Genomes Project doctors and patients can now look forward to a time when rare diseases can be identified quickly and easily."

For more information about the 100,000 Genomes Project go to www.westmidsgmc.nhs.uk

Peru mission for teenager Lauren

Lauren Bradley, from Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich, gets ready

A 17-YEAR-OLD is preparing for a once in a lifetime trip to Peru to help with Amazon rainforest conservation work and the building of a school.

Lauren Bradley from West Bromwich has always dreamed of taking part in such an expedition, and was delighted to discover that she had secured a place with organisers Camps International.

The sixth former is the only student from Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath to secure a place this year, ahead of the trip in July. As well as doing her bit to help the locals, Lauren's four weeks in Peru will include a three day trek to Machu Picchu, enabling her to really take in the stunning landscape and history of the country.

Before she can go, Lauren needs to raise £4,000, half of which she has managed to gather together already, and the other half she is hoping to collect through sales of doughnuts and cakes at school and All Saints Church. "I'm really excited. Ever since I was small I wanted to do something like this, to go abroad and help others. I would like to see what it is like in a different community," she said.

Rising crime a wake-up call, says police chief

CRIME is on the increase in the West Midlands, according to new figures which show a rising number of burglaries, sexual offences and violence.

The number of recorded crimes in the region rose nine per cent to 194,550 in the year up to September last year. Out of those, 46,842 offences were violence against a person – a 20 per cent increase.

By Nathan Briant

Burglaries rose by 18 per cent to 22,997 and sexual offences increased by 13 per cent to 4,638 offences.

But the number of thefts decreased by four per cent to 94,331 and drug offences fell six per cent to 5,364.

West Midlands Police Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said the region's figures showed crime is 'changing and not falling' and should act as a 'wake-up call to the government'.

He said this was partly down to an increase in cyber crime, although the figures did not break down the number of cyber crimes in the West Midlands.

Nationally, there were 3.6 million fraud cases and two million computer misuse offences in the same period. It is the first time these have been recorded in released figures. Mr Jamieson said: "These statistics should be a wake-up call to the government. They show once again that crime is changing.

"West Midlands Police is facing more complex threats than ever before and should receive the resources it needs to deal with those threats. Instead of which next year's budget will be cut by a further £6 million on top of the £130 million already lost since 2010."

Staff numbers in the force have been slashed by a 23.6 per cent since April 2010.

Mr Jamieson added: "We are seeing crimes such as sexual offences, cyber crime and fraud rise in prevalence and they require much more intensive police work than 'traditional' crimes."

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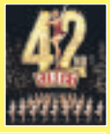

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Comfort suppliers – since 1976

Commercial feature

DREAMLAND Brierley Hill, has been helping the people across the Midlands to get a good night's sleep since 1976 – and now Dreamland Bedding Centre is marking its 41th anniversary with their winter sale.

Located in Mill Street, Brierley Hill – just a few minutes' walk from the Merry Hill Centre – you'll find friendly and knowledgeable staff, all of whom understand the importance of getting the right bed for you.

You'll receive impartial advice and a tailor-made solution to meet your needs from the firmer to softer beds upon which to rest your head.

Founded by Mike Brown, Dreamland is an independent family business that is proud to serve the Black Country and the wider Midlands region.

Sleep experts

Dreamland has come a long way since it first opened its doors in Mill Street, Brierley Hill, in the spring of 1976 with just 12 beds on show, it has now become renowned for quality and service.

Dreamland stocks only manufacturers that are approved by the National Bed Federation, and offers premium handmade beds, with mattresses filled with natural fillings such as wool, cashmere, alpaca and silk help to regulate your body temperature.

Instead of a delivery charge, customers are asked to make a donation, all of which goes to charity.

Over the past few years, it has raised more than £125,000 for the Mary Stevens Hospice, thanks to the generosity of customers who give in lieu of delivery charge. Dreamland will even collect your old bed and assemble your divan – more reasons why you'll sleep soundly in your new bed!

Three floors of quality beds

Royal Appointment Beds

Public demand for Dreamland's customer service has seen the business expand four times in as many decades, now making Dreamland one of the Midland's largest stockist of beds.

Winter Sale

All Silentnight beds are coming with free storage in the base. There is a new display of Hypnos which are now in store, giving you a king-size bed for the same price as a double on all the Hypnos beds. If you require even bigger than King size, the Super king size beds have 10 per cent off.

With Sealy products we have taken hundreds of pounds off many of their products. The Dunlopillo range has 10 per cent off everything.

Somnus mattresses and beds have up to 25 per cent off. Relyon beds have large savings across the board.

Naked Bed products have 15 per cent off and many headboards, bed frames and electric beds have been massively reduced along with some clearance models.

If you're looking to replace your tired, old bed with a new model, look no further – Dreamland Bedding Centre, with its large, free customer car park, is open seven days a week. Opening times are Monday to Saturday, 9am-5.30pm; Sundays 11am-4.30pm.

Visit Dreamland Bedding Centre today at 23 Mill Street, Brierley Hill, or telephone 01384 74166.

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Sealy SOMNUS dunlopillo Relyon REST ASSURED MYERS MAMMOTH

*See in store for full terms and conditions, selected models maybe display items

£120,000 in bus lane fines over the course of six weeks

MORE than 12,500 fines have been dished out to drivers in the space of just six weeks after being caught out by new bus lane cameras in West Bromwich town centre.

Sandwell Council has started punishing motorists who drive through a bus zone in New Street. The council has so far collected £120,000 worth of fines with more to come. Penalties of up to £90 started being issued from December 5 after thousands were let off the hook during a two-week grace period.

But thousands of drivers have continued to ignore the rules along the pedestrianised stretch past Sandwell College's Central Sixth Form Campus, formerly The Public arts centre.

Warning signs stating the cameras are running have been put up and it is hoped people will now get the message.

Only buses, Hackney carriage taxis and cyclists are allowed to pass through. Initial fines are £60, but if paid within 14 days the total will be reduced to £30. After 14 days it will stay at £60 and if it has still not been paid within 28 days it will rise to £90. A total of 12,579 fines have been issued, with another 2,600 set to go out.

It came after 6,803 warning notices were sent out after the cameras went live on November 21. These drivers were not fined as council bosses agreed to give them a second chance during the first fortnight the cameras were up. Despite the huge number of fines, Sandwell Council's highways boss Councillor David Hosell said the number of drivers cutting through the zone had fallen.

More than 2,000 a day were estimated to have been using the cut through before cameras were brought in. Councillor Hosell said: "The cameras were introduced to reduce the 2,000 motorists a day driving through the town square, bringing dangers to pedestrians and causing delays for bus passengers."

Changes due with National Express routes

CHANGES are being made to bus routes in West Bromwich, Bearwood, Oldbury, Blackheath and surrounding areas. National Express West Midlands is looking to make the changes this April, but bus users have until February 5 to express their views.

The affected routes include the 50A and 50C West Bromwich to Bearwood route, the 48 which travels between West Bromwich and Northfield and the 48A from West Bromwich to Bearwood via Salop Road, Bristnall Hall Road and George Road.

Also altering are the 80 and 83 bus routes between Birmingham and West Bromwich, and the 89 from Birmingham to Blackheath, and the 120 that takes in Birmingham to Oldbury and Dudley and the 120A which incorporates Birmingham to Oldbury and Blackheath. To have your say email services@nationalexpress.com.

Full details of the proposed changes are available at nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/information/service-changes

A different sort of tonic at microbar

Will Stephenson, of Halesowen, and Simon Dunne, of Oldbury, at Causeway Green Road

IT used to dispense prescriptions – but a former pharmacy in the Black Country will now be serving up a different kind of tonic as it is on the way to being transformed into a microbar and cafe.

School friends Simon Dunne, of Oldbury, and Will Stephenson, from Halesowen, are aiming to be pulling pints in their new venture, aptly named The Old Dispensary, on Causeway Green Road in Oldbury by the middle of February.

It comes after planning permission was granted in February last year after the building was empty for more than a year.

Mr Dunne said: "We have got a lovely sized garden out the back which will have a smoking shelter there. In the day time we will hope to serve croissants and cakes so that families can come in and then from midday onwards we will be serving drinks. We won't be putting up with any anti-social behaviour we want to be a family friendly place for all the community."

The bar will be able to serve up to around 100 people.

Sandwell Council planning officers recommended approval for the use of the shop to be converted into a licensed bar with beer garden.

Latest blaze at pub site deliberate

A SECOND blaze at a derelict pub in Smethwick this month is being treated as a suspected arson attack.

Crews worked to contain the fire which spread through The New Navigation pub on Sunday nighty.

Firefighters tackled the blaze which spread throughout the first and second floors, and the roof area of the building, near the junction with Bridge Street North.

In total 13 firefighters from Smethwick and Handsworth stations attended the scene of the fire, which started at around 7pm.

An ambulance was also sent; police attended to help with traffic duties and Sandwell Council officers were also there to close pathways.

A hydraulic platform was brought in to allow crews to fight the flames from above, and water from the nearby canal was used.

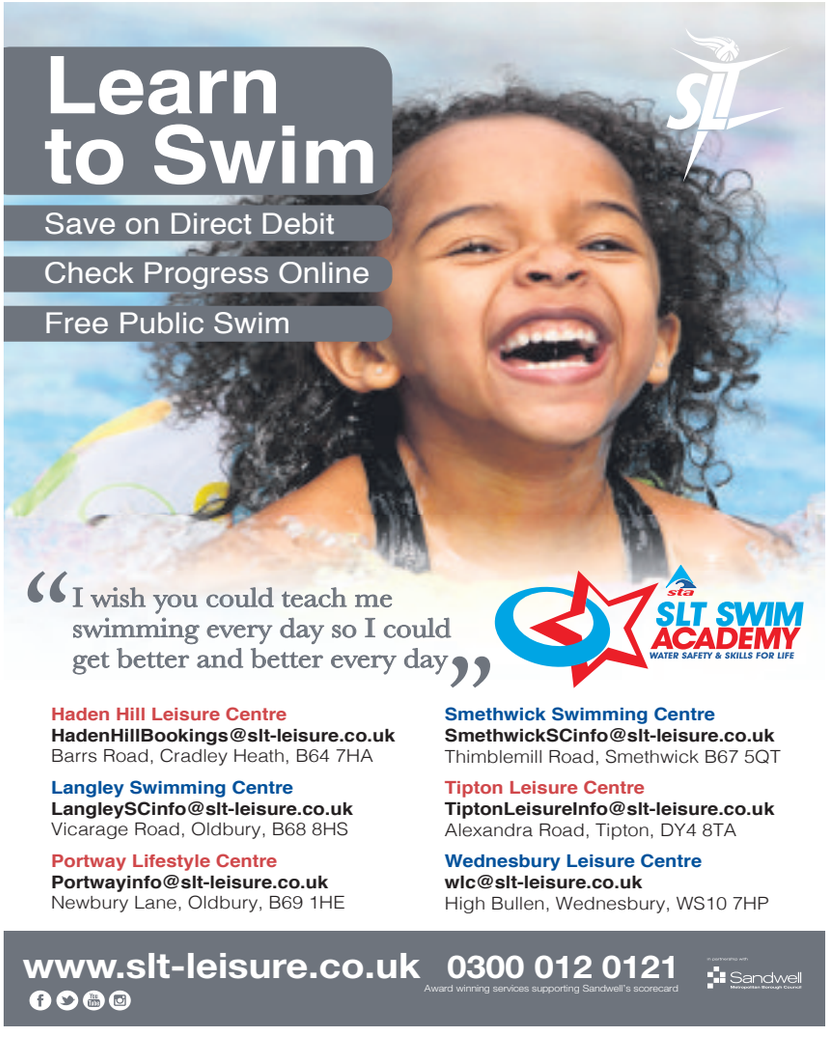
A West Midlands Fire Service spokesperson confirmed the fire is 'believed to have been started deliberately, and is being treated as suspicious'.

"We were called at 7.08pm to Lewisham Road to a fire at a derelict pub," a WMFS spokesperson said. "The fire was on the first and second floor, and the roof space." On January 2, more than 20 firefighters fought a blaze at The New Navigation.

Book inspires treat at Sea Life Centre

THE National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham has teamed up with the The Gruffalo author, Julia Donaldson, for its new event. Based on the The Snail and The Whale book, visitors will be taken on a journey through the underwater attraction and enter the UK's only 360 degree completely transparent ocean tunnel.

Tickets for the event, which runs from Monday February 13 to 17, start from £12.75.



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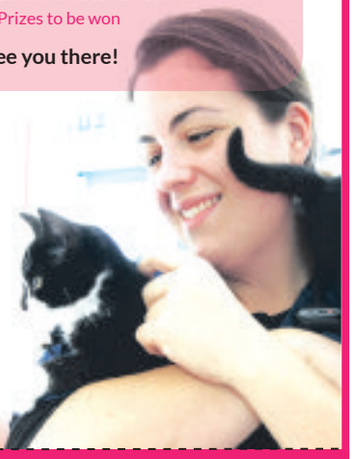

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FOCUS ON

Make right plans for your old self to keep healthy

SMETHWICK-BASED fitness guru Mel Carpenter says: Put the work in now and you'll be grateful later!

It's the start of a new year and everyone always talks about 'New Year, New Me' – well, I want to talk about 'New Year, Old Me'! When I talk about 'Old Me', I'm not referring to the person I was, I'm talking about the person I will be when I'm much, much older!

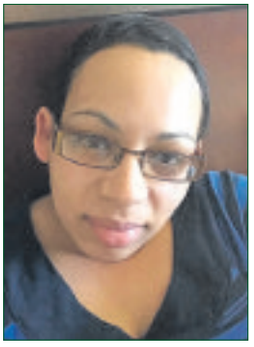
You see, a lot of people focus on Fitness for weight loss, which is great as obesity is a very big problem in the UK right now. We currently live in an area where we rank very high in the list of areas with obesity issues, both in adults and more worryingly, children!

Imagine getting to your 70s and you develop mobility issues, (which is fairly common) you recognise that things like arthritis can come with old age, but what if you become weak (as a result of old age you think) and struggle so much that you can't get out of the bath by yourself, or even use the toilet!

There's a very good chance that you can help yourself now by building/maintaining good core strength and ensuring that you work both upper and lower body regularly to keep yourself fit and able!

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that fitness can cure arthritis, what I am saying is that it can add value and sometimes years to your life! We don't ever really think about getting older, it something we will worry about at a later stage, I'm telling you to really start thinking about how much you want to maintain your independence in later years.

We have a broad range of fitness classes, gyms and personal trainers (like myself) in the area, contact someone today and make life better for yourself in the long run!



Take action – fitness guru Mel

If you don't do any kind of physical activity and have a tendency to eat poorly, now's the time for you to reassess and get on board the fitness train, before it's too late!

Find out more at www.cardiocentral.co.uk, or email melc@cardiocentral.co.uk

It's a long way to Tipperary, not for history talk

THE composer of one of the 20th century's most enduring tunes will be the subject of a history talk taking place in Bearwood next month.

At the Smethwick Local History Society's next meeting on Wednesday, February 8, Dr Terry Daniels will be talking about Jack Judge's journey from being a fishmonger in Oldbury to a music hall star and composer of It's a Long Way to Tipperary.

All meetings take place at Bearwood Baptist Church, which is on the corner of Rawlings Road and Bearwood Road. People should arrive at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. The society was formed in 1984 and membership costs £8 per person or £13 for two people living at the same address.

You do not have to be a member to attend a meeting, but a cover charge of £2 is payable by all who attend.

The society works closely with Smethwick Heritage Centre, Warley Woods Community Trust, the Lightwoods House Restoration Project and also with Sandwell Council on matters of public interest. For the full programme visit www.smethwicklocalhistory.co.uk

Costa Coffee plans will bring 10 jobs

PLANS have been revealed to open a Costa Coffee in Bearwood with the creation of 10 jobs.

An application to open a franchise branch of the coffee chain in a vacant unit of Bearwood Shopping Centre has been submitted to Sandwell Council.

The proposal is to change the use of 2,734 sq m premises from retail to cafe use, having formerly been the site of ladies fashion shop Store Twenty One. The applicants also want to use the pavement to the front on Bearwood Road as an external seating area. A decision is yet to be made by Sandwell planners.

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Complete new way for family fitness

IF you have decided to pursue a healthier approach to the new year, Smethwick-based Community Interest Company Complete Kidz is here to help!

They are kicking off the new year with a range of enjoyable, friendly, affordable classes for the entire family.

Booty Camp Ladies Fitness Classes are a low-cost way for ladies in the Black Country to get in shape.

Classes include a food discussion, help to change the way you feel about food and a different type of low-impact exercise every week. Moms are welcome to bring along their little ones too!

Furthermore, Complete Kidz also runs regular Clubbercise and Boogie Bounce classes in Sandwell which are funky ways to exercise and suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

Energy

Physical activity reduces your risk of major illness, boosts self-esteem and mood, and gives you extra energy.

Finally, encourage your children to be involved in healthy activities with Complete Kidz classes, including Boogie Bounce, Cheerleading, Gymnastics/Acro To Music and Street Dance.

Physical fitness builds confidence, helps children to have a brighter outlook on life – and they sleep easier!

Complete Kidz has been providing innovative health and fitness activities in Smethwick for more than five years.

The organisation recently held a party to celebrate this and used the event to raise funds towards the annual Complete Kidz

The Complete Kidz booty camp ladies fitness classes, aimed at moth-

Children's Christmas Party. Guests were joined at the celebration by Councillor Susan Downing (Oldbury), the Deputy Mayor of Sandwell Council.

As a leading Community Interest Company based in Smethwick, Complete Kidz delivers a wide range of affordable physical activity, sports coaching and educational services to improve the health and well-being of all age groups.

Their goal is to raise the understanding of healthy eating and exercise amongst children and their parents, as well as offering economical high quality childcare.

Visit the website for further information: http://completekidz.co.uk/classes.html

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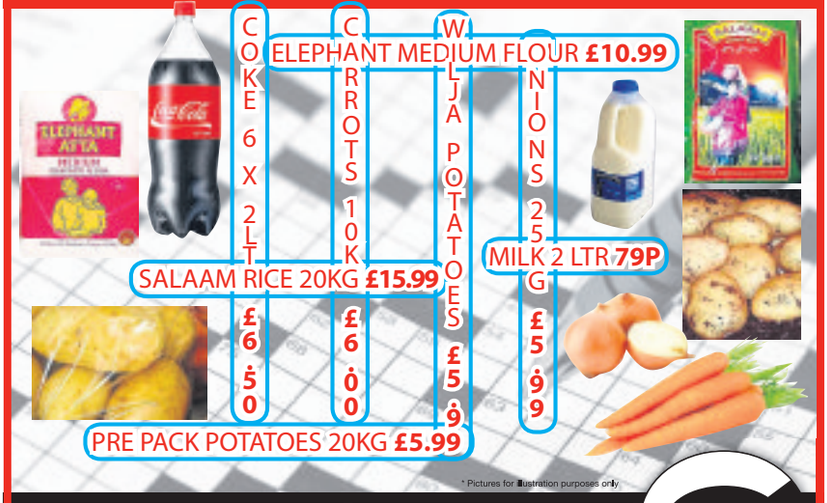

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Council backs fight for fairer women's pensions

Deputy leader Councillor Syeda Khatun, Mayor Councillor Julie Webb, Deputy Mayor Councillor Susan Downing and Councillor Barbara Price join representatives from Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) at the full council meeting

COUNCILLORS have backed a motion calling for a fairer deal for women born in the 1950s affected by a reduction in the state pension age.

Representatives from campaign group Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) joined Sandwell's full council meeting to hear the motion put forward.

Councillor Syeda Khatun, the council's deputy leader, thanked the women for attending the meeting and praised their ongoing campaign efforts.

Councillor Khatun read out the motion, which states: "This council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after April 6, 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the state pension age with lack of appropriate notification.

"Whilst accepting that retirement ages for women and men should be the same, this council believes that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

"The council notes that up to 18,000 women in Sandwell have had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes.

"The council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements."

Travellers leave site after police called

TRAVELLERS moved from private land after police were called.

The caravans arrived at the site off Hobart Road, Tipton, last Tuesday, January 15.

Police attended the same day and an eviction notice served the following day, requiring the travellers to leave by Thursday. A support unit for West Midlands Police was called on Thursday to break a padlock, gaining access to the illegally occupied site.

A police spokesman said: "Police attended the site again, the travellers left peacefully and no arrests were made."

A fortnight earlier, in Tipton, a family of travellers barricaded themselves into an industrial yard and refused to leave.

Police officers and bailiffs were called to the site in Toll End Road and the travellers eventually agreed to leave.

Dorothea enjoys days out to pub after 100 years living in the same house

A FORMER school headmistress from the Black Country has celebrated her 100th birthday – and still enjoys a trip to the pub.

Wednesbury woman Dorothea Lawrence, who was the headmistress at Hockley Heath Primary School for 30 years, has lived in the same house all her life.

On receiving a card from the Queen for her birthday, Dorothea said: "I was very thrilled with it."

Dorothea, who has never married or had children, has carers visit her home four times a day.

Mandy Catchpole, who is one of them, said: "She worked at Hockley Heath for 30 years and she loved her job.

Poetry

"She was born in this house, and she is still here 100 years later.

"She does a lot of reading, knitting and enjoys poetry.

"On Friday we will either go to Boundary Mill (on Junction 10 retail park, Bentley Mill way) or the pub – that is her day out."

Dorothea was visited by her friends on her birthday and had a cake made for her at the Boundary Mill store.

"She has never got married and only has godchildren but she had around 40 birthday cards so she has a lot of friends and people who care about her," added Mandy.

"She still walks about and goes up the stairs every night to bed so she is active. She lives a very full life for a 100 year old."

Dorothea Lawrence from Wednesbury celebrates her milestone 100th birthday with carer Mandy Catchpole at the house she has lived in all her life

Who's on your Industrial Estate

Your guide to retail on Industrial Estates in and around Sandwell

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Competitive

BSB can supply parts going back to the original Land Rover series and Jaguar e-type, right up to the the current vehicles available on the market.

Priding itself on its punctuality and competitive pricing, BSB promise that most parts can be supplied to customer on the same day of ordering, or within 24 hours with its delivery and courier service.

The business is run by managing director Peter Whitehouse, whose vast experience derives from being ex-managing director of Land Rover specialist parts and accessories supplier Bearmach.

He wants to reach out to potential customers in the West Midlands.

"The company operates worldwide and we send a lot of products into Europe," he said. "We also have a sister company based out in Australia, called BMI – British Motor Imports, and so do a lot of work with them. They are the largest distributor of Land Rover/Jaguar parts in Australia."

British Spares – Birmingham recently introduced its own range of Recovery brand off-road and style upgrades and accessory range of Land Rover parts.

The brand has been developed over 100 years of combined experience at BMI Australia and British Spares – Birmingham, to design, engineer and introduce a comprehensive high quality range of off-Road, Land Rover/Range Rover upgrades and accessories.

The new range can be classified into two separate categories, Rough Terrain and Urban Style.

Rough Terrain offers off-road and performance parts that are robust and versatile while Urban Style provides premium style and security parts and accessories for the premium Land Rover and Range Rover luxury vehicles.

Paul added: "We're very much a specialist company but we've got over 60 years of combined experience in the 4x4s. We want to make local garages and Land Rover and Jaguar owners aware of our West Bromwich facility and that we have a trade counter.

"We want to ensure the customer gets the right parts and that the right technical support is provided, where needed."

To see some of the parts British Spares – Birmingham sell go to www.bsb-autoparts.co.uk or call 0121 374 2807. Alternatively, you can email peter@bsbautoparts.co.uk

Staff at British Spares – Birmingham have 60 years of combined experience

CONTACT US

Name: British Spares – Birmingham (BSB Autoparts)

Address: BSB Autoparts PTY LTD, Unit 25, Kelvin Way Trading Estate, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7TW

Phone number: 0121 374 2807

Website: http://www.bsb-autoparts.co.uk/

Email: peter@bsbautoparts.co.uk

Side by side – two Handley Page bombers at Le Bourget

Charles Wallbank in his 1914 Humber behind his house

Charles's colleagues in front of a Spad fighter

Charles, second left, in front of a wartime RE.8

French locals examining a crashed plane

When communication by air really took off

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

IN January 1919 the RAF's No 2 Squadron began flights from London's Croydon Airport to Le Bourget, Paris, ferrying delegates and mail to the Peace Conference at Versailles.

For the first time ever aviation played a part in international diplomacy, and the value of air travel was established. One of the mechanics keeping the planes in the air at Le Bourget was Charles Wallbank from Park Village, Wolverhampton.

He had served in the war as a mechanic, in a squadron operating RE.8 reconnaissance aircraft.

Then, at war's end, found himself posted to Le Bourget to look after the huge numbers of aircraft involved, which featured the largest British aircraft then in service, the Handley Page O/400 heavy bomber, serving as a transport.

Quicker

Rarely have so many been seen on an airfield at any one time, and many of them had been built by the Birmingham & Midland Carriage Co. in Smethwick.

It was a long way from the utilitarian interior of a wood and fabric bomber to the likes of Air Force One, but communications were so much quicker by air, than by trains and cross-channel ferry.

The operation proved the worth of what was to become the premier international air route, and established air travel as a feature of modern life.

After the war Charles came home to live at Glenmore, 144 Cannock Road and used his skills to become a racing driver.

In 1925 he found a 1914 4-cylinder 3,458cc Humber in Folkstone, and brought it home to refurbish it. In 1929 he actually won a race in it at the famous Brooklands racing circuit. Motor racing was not his only pastime, however, in the loft over the garage at the rear of his house he bred lop-eared rabbits.

An amazing total of 21 Handley Page bombers at Le Bourget

Sandwell
HEALTHY LIFESTYLE SERVICES

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

FIRST 12 WEEKS FREE

Did you know there is a range of weight loss and healthy lifestyle services across Sandwell?

Want to lose weight? Be more active?

Get in touch to find out more!

To book your initial appointment with one of our friendly healthy lifestyle specialists:

Call: **0121 366 0966 / 0800 011 4656**
Text: **GETHEALTHY** to **87007**
or visit: **www.mytimeactive.co.uk/sandwell**

Twitter: **@SandwellMTA**
Facebook: **SandwellMTA**

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ADVERTISEMENT

Alberta, from Tipton.

I LOST 5 STONE WITH MYTIME ACTIVE, YOU CAN TOO!

Alberta Wood, from Tipton, has lost an amazing five stone as a result of her weight-loss efforts! Setting herself small goals and maintaining a positive attitude, Alberta has made a number of lifestyle changes from the food she eats to the amount of exercise she does. But it was Mytime Active's 'Healthy Lifestyle Service' that has really helped her to lose weight. Alberta says it's the best programme she's done since starting to lose weight and it has kept her focused. She added "the programme teaches clients how to stick to healthy things and gives useful exercise advice."

Do you want to lose weight or become more active like Alberta? Mytime Active's 'Healthy Lifestyle Service' is a FREE weight-management programme available in Sandwell. Participants can expect regular one-to-one support with qualified Healthy Lifestyle Specialists, access to a wide range of exercise classes throughout each of the towns in Sandwell as well as Weight Watchers vouchers and reduced gym-memberships at Sandwell Leisure Trust venues. As well as our regular exercise and weigh in sessions; family and long-term conditions classes are also available which are ideal for families with young children and those who find regular exercise difficult. All classes includes nutritional advice, weigh-ins and physical activity, so there will be every opportunity to lose weight in a way that's fun, approachable and right for you. If you want to LOSE WEIGHT, call Mytime Active on 0121 366 0966.

CHRONICLE COLLECTIONS for 2017

Jordan Solicitors

Muscles Health & Fitness

Rowan Tree Tipton

Special Spices

Oakwood Lodges

Companion Car Vets

Earls Gymnastics Oldbury

Wednesbury Dance Centre

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Branching out to offer legal services across Black Country

JORDANS Solicitors provide legal services including Wills and Probate, Property and Family Law from our offices in Halesowen and Blackheath.

We cover Birmingham and the Black Country, including Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, West Bromwich and Stourbridge.

Jordans was established in Blackheath by John Jordan in 1990. Over the last five years we have trebled in size resulting in opening a second branch in Halesowen and we have three distinct departments, each headed by a specialist in that area.

Wills and Probate

For the majority of people, making a will is a simple and low cost iece of legal work.

On the other hand, the cost of sorting out the mess left when someone dies without a will, with an out of date will or with a badly drafted will can be massive.

It only takes an hour or so to make a will and it can save your loved ones hours of heartache and sometimes thousands of pounds.

Property Services

We deal with all types of transactions involving residential property: Sales, Purchases, Transfers of Equity and Remortgages.

Our focus is to provide an accessibleand efficient service to clients. Moving house can be very stressful and we aim to remove as much stress as possible for our clients.

Family Law

For all family clients we offer an initial FREE 30 minute interview to discuss your case, explain your options and advise you appropriately.

We are also able to offerthis service by a telephone appointment.

Whilst the majority of our workinvolves divorce, we also assist those who are cohabiting and those who are in a civil partnership.

For information please call our Halesowen office on 0121 5853900 or our Blackheath office on 0121 559 2922.

Other members of the team include Rikki Bateman and Emma Hingley. Rikki is a Qualified Solicitor specialising in Residential Property. He is vastly experienced in all aspects of buying and selling, including New Builds and Help to Buy Schemes.

Emma has joined us from a local Estate Agents.

She brings a wealth of experience, which will further improve the process of Buying or selling a property for our clients and make it a smoother and less stressful process.

Michael Jordan LLB Michael has been with the firm since 2006 when he joined as a trainee. He is now Managing Director specialising in Residential and Commercial Property.

Baldeep Kooner LLB Baldeep is a Wills and Probate Special ist advising on Wills, Probate, Powers of Attorney, Tax Planning and Court of Protection cases.

Brinder Khara LLB Brinder is an Accredited Family Solicitor and has been practising in the area of Family Law since 1996. She is also a Notary Public

JORDANS SOLICITORS

Friendly, efficient and price competitive

*Here at **Jordans Solicitors** we offer, Conveyancing both Residential and Commercial, Wills and Probate, Powers of Attorney & Family Law...*

If the regular office hours 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday are not very convenient for you we can offer Thursday evening and Saturday morning

1 Summer Hill, Halesowen B63 3BU Tel: 0121 585 3900
35 Payne Street, Blackheath, West Midlands B65 0DH
Telephone: 0121 559 2922

www.jordans-solicitors.co.uk

Muscles built on reputation and results

Commercial feature

Muscles Health and Fitness gym has been serving the people of Black Country for the past 20 years.

The friendly and affordable bodybuilding gym located in Great Bridge, Tipton, welcomes members of all shapes, sizes and fitness levels.

Early next month, the centre, based in Great Bridge Street, is opening its doors on February 4 and 5 for a special open weekend. Training all weekend will be free and professional bodybuilders Nathan Robinson, Pat Warner and Aaron Hudson from Dudley, will be in attendance as special guests on the Saturday.

It will take place between 10am and 3pm on both days and the day is being organised in conjunction with supplement company CNP Official.

There will be giveaways throughout the day and all visitors will have the chance to win prizes in an exclusive competition.

Open seven days a week, the centre allows members to get their gym fix at the best time that suits them – with prices starting from £2.60 a session or £20 each month.

The specialist facilities available to use at Muscles Health and Fitness include a comprehensive selection of free weights, specialised weight equipment, cardiovascular equipment and personal training.

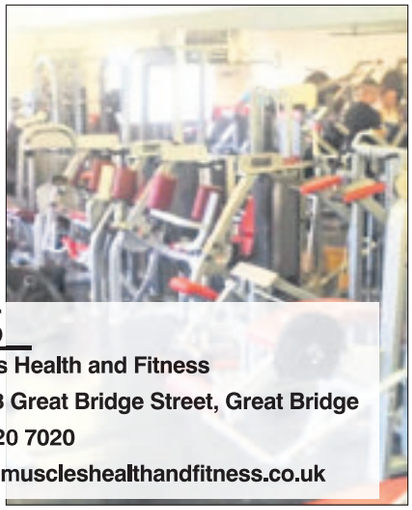
One of the services which sets the gym apart in the area is their competition preparation expertise.

The experienced team know all about what it takes to train, enter and succeed in body building competitions. So why not let the Muscles team help you with your next competition?

Co-owner Paul is hoping new people across the Black Country will sign up as members.

He said: "We have over 20 years of experience in the industry.

A huge collection of free weight dumb-bells available for members of Muscles Health and Fitness in Great Bridge, Tipton



A view of some of the weight machines available

CONTACT US

Name: Muscles Health and Fitness

Address: 22-28 Great Bridge Street, Great Bridge

Phone: 0121 520 7020

Website: www.muscleshealthandfitness.co.uk

We offer the best bodybuilding advice and nutrition in Great Bridge, to all and everyone who are welcome.

"We are always here to help our members achieve good results and help both male and females prepare for shows."

"Not only do we offer direct debit membership but pay as you go as well.

"We've got a lot of great members who use the gym as a no nonsense place to train, work out and get friendly and meaningful advice from our experienced staff.

"If you want the best, put our experience to the test."

Muscles Health and Fitness first opened as a family gym by brothers Paul and Shaun Nicholls, who wanted to share their knowledge of bodybuilding and nutrition with the people of Tipton and beyond.

They now boast professional level bodybuilding training and attend shows on a regular basis. It hopes to continue to share their success of the business so far by introducing new members to sign up.

As well as the wide range of training equipment available, the gym offers supplements and nutrition to its customers while members can look golden after spending a few minutes under the fast tan sun bed.

As well as bodybuilding and fitness, Muscles Health and Fitness offer experience advice and help in dieting and personal training.

The gym is open Monday to Friday between 9am and 9pm. On Saturdays it is open from 10am to 3pm and between 10am and 2pm on Sundays.

Paul has competed many times himself along with many other members.

To keep on track of any news and updates from Muscles Health and Fitness Gym you can follow them on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/muscleshealthandfitness.

Alternatively, further information on the gym's facilities is available at the gym's website on www.muscleshealthandfitness.co.uk.

They can also be contacted via telephone on 0121 520 7020 or email on info@muscleshealthandfitness.co.uk

MUSCLES HEALTH & FITNESS

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

OPEN WEEKEND

4th & 5th FEBRUARY 2017, 10-3

FREE TRAINING // COMPETITIONS

GIVE-AWAYS // SUPPLEMENT TASTERS

COME ALONG ON THIS WEEKEND AND GET YOUR 1ST MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP FOR ONLY £15

22-28 GREAT BRIDGE STREET, GREAT BRIDGE, TIPTON DY4 7EW - ENTRANCE AT REAR VIA SLATER STREET - TEL 0121 520 7020

CNP

IGNITE YOUR PERFORMANCE

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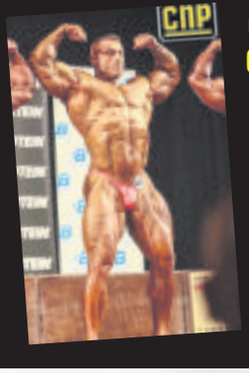
PAT WARNER
FORMER MR BRITAIN

AARON HUDSON
BRITISH FINALIST

NATHAN ROBINSON
BRITISH FINALIST

COME AND MEET A FEW OF MUSCLES MEMBERS



RICH
1ST PLACE UK BFF QUALIFIER
4TH BRITISH FINALIST

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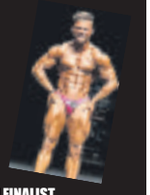
1ST PLACE
UK BFF QUALIFIER
BRITISH FINALIST



ROBBIE
2ND PLACE
UK BFF QUALIFIER BRITISH FINALIST

BRING THIS ADVERT WITH YOU TO RECEIVE OFFERS

Top choice for work on your garden

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

BASED in the heart of Tipton, the Rowan Group of companies is ideally situated to serve all of the local community.

From their base they confidently serve the whole of the West Midlands with all of their garden needs.

Established in 2007 by Managing Director Richard Jennings, the company specialise in tree surgery but have since expanded into landscaping.

The expansion took place due to the growing demand from very satisfied customers who were always asking Richard for his thoughts and advice on a range of problems around the garden.

No job is too big or small for the company to take care of from a simple reshaping of conifer bushes to total removal of a mighty oak!

The Rowan group of companies is an Age Concern and local authority contractor, with all staff qualified and are CRB certified and N.P.T.C. certified and are a member of Tradewell Trading Standard Scheme.

This goes a long way when Richard goes out to view a potential job, especially Age Concern, and Richard is very proud to be able to quote this to any client, new or old.

Environmentally Friendly

At Rowan, all of the our tree surgeons have all the latest up-to-date equipment and machinery to tackle any job from hedgerow planting to woodland clearance. Tree stumps are often an unsightly addition to any garden.

While many people will use them as a garden feature, often they would prefer them removed. Stump grinding or root removal is an easy way to get rid of the problem, stopping the chance of it regrowing and maintaining the look of your garden. All stump grinding and root removal performed by Rowan Garden Services tree surgeons is 100 per cent environmentally friendly,

CONTACT US

Name: Rowan Tree Services
Address: Unit 4, Eclipse Trading Estate, Sedgley Road West, Tipton, DY4 8DQ
Phone: 07733 226568/01384 213644
Website: www.romangroup.co.uk

SERVICES

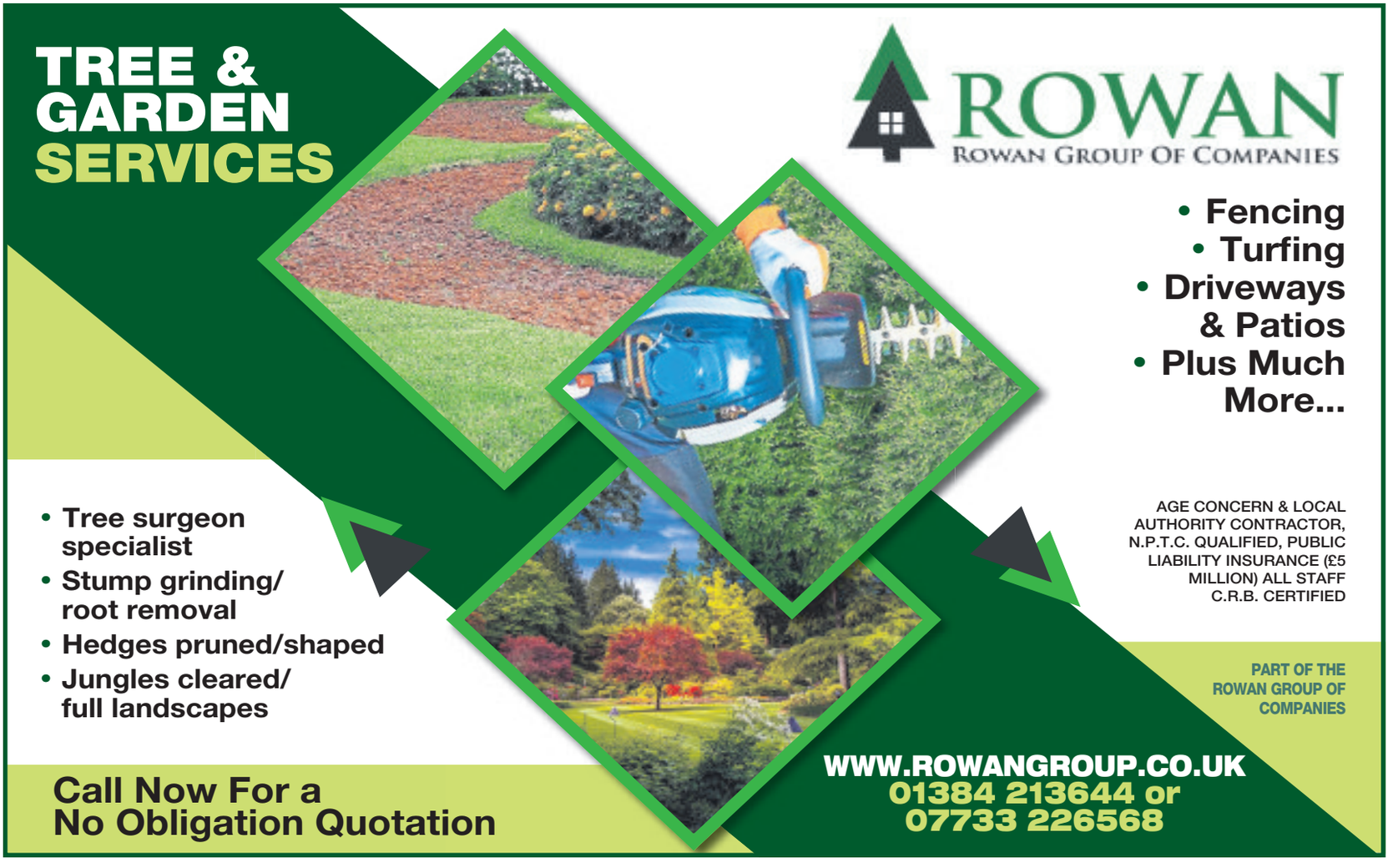
Stump grinding
Tree surgery
Root removal
Hedges shaped
Jungles cleared
Full landscapes
Hedges pruned

Some of the group's impressive kit

Managing Director Richard Jennings

Job done – Some work carried out by Richard

The team's gets ready to carry out the work



Spacious and various seating arrangements

Chance to meet up with friends and enjoy a good meal

This hidden jewel is proving so Special

Tasty dishes are poular with customers

Commercial feature

BIRMINGHAM is a dream for curry enthusiasts with so much choice when it comes to Indian restaurants.

In fact there are so many to choose from that it can be a struggle trying to decide on one. We recommend paying a visit to Great Barr's Special Spices for a truly authentic experience.

This unpretentious little restaurant on Newton Road offers high quality Indian cuisine all unbeatable prices with a hefty selection of starters, sides and main courses.

A lovely family-run fully licensed Indian restaurant called Special Spices, newly refurbished it differs from your everyday restaurant in many ways. It opens from 2-11pm and its authentic Indian food and attention to detail sets it head and shoulders above the competition.

It combines a warm friendly welcome with a lovely family atmosphere, a place where guests arrive as customers but leave as friends.

Every week different offers are available so keep a look out on facebook (special spices) or go online at www.special-spices.co.uk to check out the amazing deals.

Relax

With a seating capacity of 120 just in the restaurant, you can relax at the bar or participate in a game of pool on our new table.

A fully licensed function room is also available FREE OF CHARGE, for weddings, birthdays or any other occasion, ideal also for corporate events or team bonding.

And as a special little something for Chronicle readers we will offer you a free bottle of house wine with all orders of £25 and above, just cut out the voucher on the page opposite and just bring it along, we will honour the voucher until the 15th of February 2017, so for all you romantics out there this is the perfect freebie for valentines day.

Below are a few reviews from satisfied customers that are available online.

Glowing reviews for newly-refurbished Special Spices

I visited Special Spices yesterday with my family. They've apparently just had a major refurbishment and it looks very good.

Coming to the main feature, the food, I have to say I was blown away! This has to be one of the best Desi pubs I have visited, and I've been to quite a few.

The mixed grill starters, along with the fish pakora and fish tikka were perfect. However, the mains and curries in Desi pubs often fall way short off the mark, not here they don't, they too were excellent like you'd get served at a decent curry house.

To top it all, the staff were also very good. All in all a good experience, can't wait for the next visit.

(Amaneja)

The renovated look really makes the place a great restaurant to eat and have a drink in. The modern interior is clean and spacious but also cosy. There's TVs and a pool table so a nice place to chill.

The food is fresh and they do a range of food including non vegetarian and vegetarian options, noodles and starters etc. Highly recommend.

(Jodee H)

Special Spices has recently had a refurbishment. Good quality Punjabi food at reasonable prices. Order at counter and meal is served to the table by staff.

Good options for vegetarians also. Good choice of tandoori cooked meals and nan breads. One of the better Indian pub food restaurants in the area. Plenty of TV screens to watch live Sky and BT sport. Takeaway also seems popular here.

(Makhan)

This is one of the few places I've been to that does both an amazing starter and main.

Over the last few years been trying out all the rumoured best mixed grill places in Birmingham and out of the seven places tried Special Spices and Hen & chicken came out on top for me.

This place is my brother-in-law's local and after yesterday's visit I was not disappointed and can't wait to go again already.

Mixed grill, spicy fish, chicken saag and all the Indo Chinese stuff was really special.

(Devan3)

Building just been returned and it is wonderful. Great with kids as the bar area is separate now and the dining area is relaxed. Food is awesome fresh spicy.

Have been several times and each time we try something different on the menu and all have been great.

(Debbie M Birmingham)

The place has been done up and it looks amazing. Lovely staff and the food is amazing. I use this as my local. The atmosphere is fantastic for family.

(Victor190214)

As you will have read this is an amazing place and with plenty of offers available and catering for all this is the perfect venue for couples, families or if you just fancy a quiet bite to eat on your own, so come along and say hello.

CONTACT US

Name: Special Spices

Address: 270 Newton Road, Birmingham, B43 6QU

Phone: 0121 357 9666

Website: www.special-spices.co.uk

Recently Refurbished

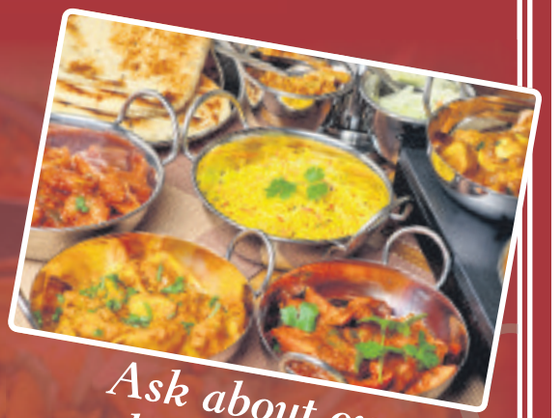
Families Welcome

Special Spices

Cocktails from £3.50

1 Restaurant

According to our customers we are the best Indian restaurant in the West Midlands



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BT Sport

Top quality and stunning

Commercial feature

OAKWOOD Lodge Park offers some spectacular views from its lodges nestled in the picturesque surroundings of mid-Wales.

From romantic breaks for couples to week-long holidays for all the family, self-catering lodges are available during winter, spring, summer or autumn, 365 days a year.

The quality self catering accommodation is in fully-equipped and centrally-heated log cabins. Guests can enjoy the small, peaceful and secluded park, set in 20 acres of land, including the bluebell filled woodland of about three acres.

Most lodges have private garden areas offering seclusion and privacy as well as the attractive panoramic view towards the magnificent Elan Valley, with its mountains, lakes and moors.

The park is just outside the market town of Rhayader and midway between the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia and Aberystwyth and Hereford.

Secure

Owner John said: "All lodges face south and have five-mile panoramic views across the valley. We are very dog friendly with secure fences right around the whole park. Most of our lodges have private hot tubs and we are open 365 days of the year.

"We offer romantic short breaks for couples, family holidays and welcome group bookings too.

"The quality of our lodges and the stunning views really are second to none, he added.

Our guests satisfaction comes first in everything we do. Many of our guests not only come back each year but many will visit several times a year."

Chill out on this relaxing site and with panoramic views

Oakwood was first opened for guests in 1997 but was purchased by the current owners in April 2013. They spent the previous 11 years running a large and successful four-star bed and breakfast in Henley-on-Thames.

Since being at Oakwood, they have added three new premium lodges taking the total up to 14, 10 of which now have private hot tubs, which have proven particularly popular.

The owners, together with their live-in staff, have also re-surfaced the roads while a new guest reception was built and new signage erected on the lanes leading to the site. John added: "The objective was to continue to offer a quiet, relaxing holiday, that was pet friendly and to welcome all guests whether they are a couple, family or group.

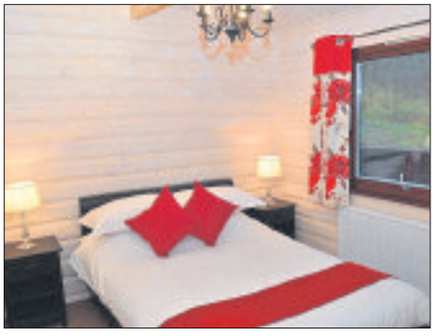
"Being open 365 days a year and allowing check ins on any day of the week, with only a three-night minimum stay, means that Oakwood has a dedicated following of regular guests who return time and time again.

"The plans for the future include a couple more hot tubs, and perhaps one or two more lodges, but above all to retain the quiet, friendly and relaxing atmosphere that Oakwood has built its reputation on," he added.

More details on the lodges at Oakwood Lodge Park can be found on the website at www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk or by calling 01597 811422.

Alternatively, contact Oakwood for details via email on info@oakwoodlodges.co.uk.

They are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OakwoodLodgePark where a host of pictures and videos of the park can be found



Interior views of the high standard lodges

CONTACT US

Name: Oakwood Lodge Park

Address: Oakwood Lodge Park, Rhayader, Powys, LD6 5NT

Phone number: 01597 811422

Website: www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk

Oak Wood LODGES

01597 811422

www.oakwoodlodges.co.uk

Norwegian log cabins situated at 1000ft above sea-level in the 'Heart of Wales'.

Fantastic views with red kites soaring overhead.

Stunning location and excellent touring centre.

Dogs welcome.

Small site.

All year round availability.

Superb holiday accommodation.

BOOK A LODGE WITH A HOT TUB FOR VALENTINES OR HALF TERM

PHONE FOR BROCHURE

Excellent pet care at affordable prices

Above, Vets4Pets in Hill Top, offering specialist surgery and the highest standard of inpatient care with the latest equipment. Inset: Monish and Beyonce

A view inside the clinic, highlighting the range of services available

MONISH is the head vet and practice principal of our brand new clinic Vets4Pets West Bromwich in addition to our two sister practices Companion Care Vets Oldbury and Vets4Pets Merry Hill.

Here we offer our clients a reliable and professional service delivered by our committed team. Over the years we have expanded and progressed but maintained our ethos of providing excellent patient care at affordable prices. During this time we have invested heavily in the latest equipment and surgical techniques to provide safe general anaesthesia, extensive patient monitoring and quicker

Commercial feature

recoveries, while also participating in specialist surgery.

Two of our clinics are registered training practices for student veterinary nurses. All three of our practices are open seven days a week, including weekends with no surcharge for routine/emergency appointments. Our team continuously works between all three of the practices, so you are guaranteed to see a friendly face.

This is just one of the great things we have to offer as well as separate dog, cat and exotic hospital wards; state-of-the-art operating theatres and monitoring equipment; isolation facilities; an in-house laboratory to give you basic lab results the very same day; in-house dentistry and digital x-ray to help with a rapid diagnosis. We offer morning, afternoon and evening consultation times to fit in with your busy schedule at a competitive price of £22.50, providing free of charge follow-up appointments and a 10 per cent discount on consumables and non-routine surgery for VIP, NHS, Armed Forces and over-60s members. Here at Vets4 Pets we strongly believe that prevention is better than cure and offer a range of packages for vaccinations and neutering.

Routine nurse consultations for dental and weight checks as well as long term support for chronic illnesses, such as diabetic clinics. Our dedicated team are here to support our clients throughout their pet's treatment with follow-up phone calls, free re-check appointments, free post-operative care, including bandage changes, suture and staple removals and post-operative pain relief. Our admin team takes care of insurance, processing both direct and indirect claims for no extra charge giving you one less thing to worry about.

For more information on the clinic, based at 139, Hill Top, West Bromwich, B70 0RZ, call 0121 567 3250, the website is www.vets4pets.com/westbromwich.

Brand New Veterinary Clinic
Vets4Pets West Bromwich

All of our packages are available across our three branches
Terms and Conditions apply

Open 7 Days a Week
No weekend surcharge for routine appointments and emergencies

FIRST CONSULTATION FREE OF CHARGE

Kitten Package
- Health Check with a Vet
- Full Vaccination Course
- Microchip
- Flea and Worm Prevention (lasts 1 month)
- 4 Weeks Free Insurance
- Information Pack and Vouchers

£57.50

Puppy Package
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- Full Vaccination Course
- Microchip
- Flea and Worm Prevention (lasts 1 month)
- 4 Weeks Free Insurance
- Information Pack and Vouchers

£47.50

10% OFF Veterinary Services for:
- Pets at home VIP members
- Over 60's
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Proof of employment will be required, terms and conditions apply

Merry Hill Vets4Pets Putting your pet first
Inside Pets At Home, The Merry Hill Centre Station Drive, Brierly Hill, DY5 1SY
01384 480 698

Companion Carevets Oldbury
Inside Pets At home, Oldbury Green Retail Park,Oldbury B69 3DD
0121 270 2282

West Bromwich Vets4Pets Putting your pet first
139 Hill Top, West Bromwich, B70 0RZ
0121 567 3250

NEW GYMNASTICS CENTRE OPENING IN OLDBURY

JUNIOR GYM 2-4 YR OLDS

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Olympic Medalist Kristian Thomas - a member of earls from the age of 5 will officially open the centre
Official Opening at 1.00pm

Earls Gymnastics. 1 Wharfside, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, B69 2BU.

www.earlsgymnastics.org.uk
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CHRONICLE COLLECTIONS

Gym looks to find next Kristian

Commercial feature

EARLS Gymnastics Club will be officially opening its new centre on Saturday – with the help of double Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas.

Priding themselves on their professionalism and approach to all, Earls Gymnastics aim to provide positive experiences that hopefully children will carry through to their adult life, helping them to establish a healthy lifestyle.

Kristian – who won a bronze medal at London 2012 – is a regular user of the long-established gym at Earls, in Halesowen.

Building on that success, a new facility opens on Wharfside, Rounds Green Road in Oldbury on Saturday.

To mark the grand opening, the gym is offering people the chance to try out gymnastics lessons for free.

Inviting

The new centre will add to the already successful site based in Furnace Lane, Halesowen.

The gym is inviting the younger generation to head along to use the facilities at the new site in Oldbury during the daytime.

Founded in 1990, it has over 25 years of experience and is passionate about enabling young children and young adults to train to be gymnasts, as well as promoting wellbeing and exercise in a safe environment.

Earls Gymnastics are reaching out to the community in hope of making children more active, combatting obesity and improving body strength.

With fully trained coaches of a very high standard, the club is suitable for gymnasts from grass roots level to the ultimate elite and made up of a dedicated team who are all committed to providing a top quality service. Earls ensure that this continues by supporting their coaches in their development throughout their time at the club.

Some of the classes it delivers include Junior Gym, School Years Gym, Teen Gym, Advanced Gym, Freestyle Gymnastics and Adult Gymnastics.

CPD training is undergone throughout the year to ensure all high standards the gym strives for are met.

Places are now available.

To book, register your place at www.earlsgymnastics.org.uk

CONTACT US

Name: Earls Gymnastics Club

Address: 1 Wharfside, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, B69 2BU.

Telephone number: 0121 550 7611

Website: www.earlsgymnastics.org.uk

Email: earlsgymnastics@hotmail.com

CHRONICLE COLLECTIONS

Helping people step into the world of dance – at all levels

Commercial feature

Wednesbury Dance Centre has been running in the Black Country for many years.

The professional full time dance school is always working to develop dancers at its base in market place and trains beginners to champions.

Established by the renowned John and Joan Knight, the social and competitive school run by head teacher Dennis Bennett.

The well-established school uses teachers qualified by examination with the International Dance Teachers Association under the direction of John Knight and Denise Bennett.

Specialising in Ballroom and Latin but also encompassing Rock n Roll, Freestyle and Wedding Dances among others. It allows people to learn to dance the easy way in a friendly studio.

Social

And the school always reminds members that together dancing is fun for two.

It holds a number of group classes where people can learn with step-by-step instruction set in a social atmosphere.

During a series of classes you can learn to dances like the Cha Cha Cha, Waltz, Social Rock n Roll, Quickstep, Social Salsa, Argentine Tango, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango, Jive and other dances in vogue, thanks to programmes such as Strictly Come Dancing.

This school also offers individual tuition and training for the profession itself.

Part of the spacious and airy dance school

Wednesbury Dance Centre also holds classes for children every Saturday to give children the mental and physical exercise that helps them to learn co-ordination along with other life skills.

It is encouraging more people to join the studio to exercise the body and mind at reasonable fees payable weekly. For further details go to Wednesbury Dance Centre's website at www.dancemagicwednesbury.co.uk.

If you would like any more information about any of the classes then give them a call on 0121 556 5285 or 07793 371639.

fast the ticket

Buddy story

Boys on tour – P 35

Shaw thing

See Page 35

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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2 10OZ GAMMON STEAKS £18
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12 PM TO 7 PM
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LASAGNE • STEW & ROLL
ROAST OF THE DAY • COTTAGE PIE
Valentines Day
TUESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY
TWO COURSE MENU
£25.00 PER COUPLE

Barbara Dickson

Wednesday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The Scottish singer-songwriter draws on her folk roots as well as her hits, such as January February, Answer Me, Another Suitcase In Another Hall and Caravan Song.
Visit **thsh.co.uk**

Menace Beach

Thursday, 7.30pm
Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath
Scuzzy grunge rock from the noisy Leeds duo, who released new single Give Blood last week. Support from Birmingham band Mutes.
See **hareandhoundskingsheath.skiddletickets.com**

Love

Until February 11
The Rep Studio, Birmingham
The experiences of those in poverty and temporary accomodation are examined in this hard-hitting new drama from Alexander Zeldin, which was recently seen at the National Theatre.
See **birmingham-rep.co.uk**

Crazy Town

Monday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
Come my baby, come, come, my baby, and see this 90s rap-rock outfit from California still fronted by Seth Binzer (AKA Shifty Shellshock, pictured), following a stint in rehab.
See **wolvescivic.co.uk**

ROCK & METAL

U2-2 – Tribute to U2
Tonight, £10 - £12
The Robin 2,
Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Legends Of Rock
Tonight, £3
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Stanley Dee – Steely Dan tribute
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Independent Venue Week showcase feat. Rinse + Fears Chella + Alma
Tonight, £5
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Quadrophenia Night
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Sensational 60's Experience
Tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Nonsuch + Byron Hare + Yung Jimmys Big Ideas
Tomorrow,
Six Eight Kafe, Birmingham,
B2 5HG.
Call 0121 448 8089

Juyo + Timmas + LCD – part of Independent Venue Week 2017
Sun, £3
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Tyketto
Mon, £16 - £18
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Black Sabbath
Thu,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Roadhouse Presents: Rock/Indie Showcase
Thu, £4
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Roy Orbison Story
Thu, £22
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

CLUBBING

After Dark Launch Party w/ Cause & Affect, Stanton Warriors
Tonight – tomorrow,
The Rainbow Venues,
Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

The Weekend Anthems performed by Killerstream
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Solardo Sessions Birmingham
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

Playaz : Birmingham
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 771 1521

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES MOTOWN & REGGAE

The UB40 Experience
Tomorrow, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Paul Jones and Dave Kelly
Tomorrow,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Sun,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Live Jazz Broadcast
Wed, £5 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University,
Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

POP

ABBA + Bee Gees (tributes)
Tomorrow, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Thank ABBA For The Music
Tomorrow, £21.50 - £23.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue,
The Jam House,
Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Ray Cooper
Wed, £11
Red Lion Folk Club,
Birmingham,
B14 7LY.
Call 0121 444 2803

CLASSICAL

Nights On Broadway
Tonight,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Junior Conservatoire Orchestral Concert
Tomorrow, £5 - £7
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University,
Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
Sun, £15 - £40
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Beethoven's Fifth
Sun, Thu,
CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

KS3: A Journey Across the Western World
Mon - Tue,
CBSO Centre, Birmingham,
B1 2LF.
Call 0121 616 6500

Liebeslieder (Elouise Waterhouse)
Thu, £6 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University,
Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

THEATRE

Fiddler on the Roof
Tonight,
Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE.
Call 01384 812960

Jackson Live
Tonight,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Someone Like You – The Adele Songbook
Tonight,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Carpenters Story
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Simon Weston: My Life, My Story
Tomorrow, £17.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Akaar 2017 Showcase Performance
Tomorrow,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 359 9444

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show
Mon - Tue,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Il Trovatore (ROH Live)
Tue, £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281
and
Tue,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232
and
Tue,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Evita
Tue - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Round The Horne
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

That'll Be The Day
Thu, £23.50
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Paula O'Brien Live in Wrexham
Thu,
The Ramada Plaza Wrexham,
LL13 7YH.
Call 01978 291400

COMEDY

Lucy Porter 'Consequences' tour
Tonight,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 359 9444

Standup comedy – Garr Murran, Javier Jarquin, Micky Bartlett
Tonight - tomorrow, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.
Call 08700 111 960

Micky Flanagan Warm Up Show
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

What's In A Name?
Tomorrow,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Library of Birmingham,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

MISC. EVENTS

The Birmingham Whisky Club Presents: Craig's List – New Releases
Today,
The Wellington, Birmingham,
B2 5SN.
Call 0121 200 3115

The Birmingham Whisky Club & Rowheath Pavilion Present: Burns' Ceilidh
Tomorrow,
Rowheath Pavilion, Birmingham,
B30 1HH.
Call 0121 458 1711

Baptism of Fire: Wilfred Owen's War in 1917
Tomorrow,
St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury,
SY11 1JX.
Call 01743 365478

Bridge Club
Mon,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

ARTS & CULTURE

Spotlight Tour
Today, Sun, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Stitch Social
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Making Veganism Easy
Today,
Purely Vegan Store, Birmingham,
B14 6EB. Call 0121 443 3211

Short Introductory Talk: Help & Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
Tomorrow, Free
The Polish Millenium Centre,
Birmingham, B5 5PH.
Call 0121 643 3577

Decopatch Craft Workshop
Tomorrow,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Oh Boy! Buddy in rock 'n' roll show

ROCK 'n' roll musical Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story tells the enduring tale of the 1950s music icon's meteoric rise to fame and his final legendary performance before his tragic death in a plane crash at the aged on 22.

The show will be presenting a feast of 50s nostalgia at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

In just 18 months the bespectacled Texas-born singer-songwriter had revolutionised the face of contemporary music, influencing a host of stars from The Beatles to Bruce Springsteen.

The production boasts a multi-talented cast, including Glen Joseph and Alex Fobbester (who alternate the role of Buddy Holly), in a show that presents two hours of music with more than 20 of Buddy's greatest hits, including That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue, Oh Boy and Rave On.

Concert

The show recreates the final concert, held at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, which also featured Buddy's ill-fated tour mates The Big Bopper, of Chantilly Lace fame, and Ritchie 'La Bamba' Valens.

The show has inspired a generation of multi-million selling jukebox musicals, and has been seen by more than 22 million music fans since it opened in London's West End in 1989.

It has also been endorsed by Buddy's widow, Maria Elena Holly, who said of the show: "We never imagined Buddy's music and story would still be rocking stages and entertaining audiences around the world week-in week-out. I believe this is testament to a great show – the first of its kind – and to the enduring appeal of Buddy Holly and what he represents: youthful energy, huge talent and creativity, combined with a determination to make a lasting impression in this world."

Tickets are now on sale by calling 01902 429212, online at grandtheatre.co.uk or by visiting the box office at the Lichfield Street venue in person.

The cast of Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story will be rocking the Grand Theatre

Blues star's homecoming

JOANNE Shaw Taylor is the Black Country's own queen of the blues, who relocated to the US to forge her career and is at long last recognised in her homeland – judging by the sold out notices for her homecoming gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday.

Last year the 30-year-old singer and guitarist from Wednesbury released her sixth album, Wild, which was recorded in Nashville's Grand Victor Sound Studios with top producer Kevin Shirley, who has also worked with Led Zeppelin, Journey, Iron Maiden, Black Stone Cherry and supergroup Black Country Communion.

"Recording at Grand Victor was incredibly inspiring," said Joanne."It is quite the legendary studio. Dolly Parton cut Jolene and I Will Always Love You here. And Chet Atkins worked here. Basically, if there was a hit record out of Nashville, it was made here. I am very proud of this album, and I can't wait for everyone to hear it."

That album caught the ear of bosses at Jools Holland's Later TV music show, who gave the blues star a slot on the show in October.

She was still a schoolgirl with an obsession for the music in her dad's record collection – such as Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan – when former Eurythmics star and producer Dave Stewart spotted her considerable musical potential and she went on to release debut album White Sugar in 2009.

Joanne played lead guitar in Annie Lennox's band at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace in 2012 and her blues work has gained such celebrity fans as Stevie Wonder and top guitarist Joe Bonamassa.

From Russia, and China, with love

CLASSICAL music enthusiasts can mark Chinese New Year with an East meets West concert at the Elgar Concert Hall at the University of Birmingham tomorrow (Friday) with pianist Di Xiao, cellist Jiaxin Lloyd Webber and harpist Eleanor Turner.

Other highlights are at Symphony Hall. On Sunday afternoon (also February 2 afternoon) CBSO perform Beethoven's Fifth, conducted by Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla, plus Mozart's final concerto, with pianist Francesco Piemontesi. On Wednesday night Vasily Petrenko conducts Russian greats for Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with pianist Daniil Trifonov.

Name drop in to ruin a dinner party

THE choice of the name 'Adolf' for a baby is revealed at a dinner party, leading to a furious row in ferocious farce What's In A Name?, which gets its UK premiere at Birmingham Rep tomorrow (Friday) at the start of a two-week run.

Based on the French stage and film sensation Le Prenom, by Matthieu Delaporte and Alexandre de La Patelliere, the dark comedy has been adapted and directed by Jeremy Sams. The cast includes Sarah Hadland, best known as Miranda Hart's TV sidekick Stevie, and former EastEnders actor Nigel Harman. See birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Fans grateful for day of the Dead

IT'S the day of the Dead at Bilston's Robin 2 venue in Bilston on Wednesday when the 50th anniversary of Live/Dead, by legendary San Francisco hippy group The Grateful Dead. It is performed by a veteran band featuring former Grateful Dead pianist Tom Constanten with Jefferson Starship alumni.

Moving from the Bay to Birkenhead, those wry post-punk indie satirists Half Man Half Biscuit visit the Robin on Thursday, February 2. Before that, the Robin hosts classic rock with Atomic Rooster and Snafu on Friday, The Quireboys (unplugged) on Sunday and New York's Tyketto on Monday.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, January 26, 2017

CHOICE

Gary Barlow

Let It Shine (BBC1, 7pm)
Graham Norton and Mel Giedroyc are on hand to present the final round of auditions, as more would-be pop princes submit their vocal skills for approval by judges Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and departing panel member Amber Riley. As with the previous three rounds, each of the singers needs to secure at least 15 stars from the four assembled judges, each of whom will be rating the performances out of five stars. Should they prove successful, the auditionees progress to the next stage of the contest, in which their dance skills will be put to the test in collaborations with some of Britain's most popular musical acts.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **2.30** Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships. The men's singles semi-finals. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.30** Who Dares Wins.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Diane Louise Jordan, the Rev Richard Coles, Nancy Dell'Olio, Matt Barbet, Sharron Davies, Mark Foster, Gyles Brandreth and Susan Calman all take part in the unorthodox quiz show.

7.00 Let It Shine. The final round of auditions arrives, along with Amber Riley's last appearance as a judge, as one last set of would-be pop princes display their vocal abilities for the panel.

8.25 Casualty. Alicia is surprised to discover her long-estranged parents Howard and Jackie are planning to give their marriage another go. However, when old family friend Martin turns up at their surprise anniversary party, and seems to have a falling-out with Howard, it soon becomes clear there is a secret third wheel in their relationship. Meanwhile, Charlie balances his over-zealous wedding-planning with caring for a reluctant teenage football star, and Cal's trust in Alicia is tested when he discovers she has a secret phone hidden in her locker.

9.15 Taboo. As both the Crown and London turn against him, James Delaney enlists the depraved chemist Cholmondely into his company, and Lorna aims to prove she is anything but a weak link.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Gabby Logan presents highlights of the latest FA Cup fourth-round matches, which included Tottenham Hotspur v Wycombe Wanderers, and Middlesbrough v Accrington Stanley.

11.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world, joined by former Super Bowl winners Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell.

12.25 Film: A Few Best Men. (2011) Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel. **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Film: Adventure in Baltimore. (1949) Period comedy, starring Shirley Temple. **8.05 Film:** Little Women. (1949) Oscar-winning drama, starring June Allyson. **10.00** Secret Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **1.00 Film:** Kismet. (1955) Musical fantasy, starring Howard Keel. **2.50** Flog It! (R) **3.25** The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) **4.25** Mastermind. (R) **4.55** University Challenge. (R) **5.25** Only Connect. (R) **5.55 Film:** Finding Neverland. (2004) Fact-based period drama, starring Johnny Depp.

7.30 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney. Andy Torbet dives below the waves in search of the inspiration for the first stone circle, while Chris Packham and Neil Oliver spend the night on an abandoned island as they hunt for clues as to why cultures change. Meanwhile, Shini Somara tests the technology behind a bronze age sauna and the archaeologists uncover a remarkable find. Last in the series. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon have their hands full with two German prisoners and the arrival of a suspicious Polish captain, while Walker sees a way to make easy money. Comedy first broadcast in 1968, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

9.00 Francis Bacon: A Brush with Violence. Documentary exploring just how much of Francis Bacon's notoriety as a rude, drunken loudmouth was a carefully curated front he maintained to protect the complex and haunted man behind his own myth. Making use of interviews with celebrity commentators, fellow artists, and some of the people who knew him best, this programme sets out to deconstruct the perceived and hidden identities of the man known as one of the most sought-after British artists of the 20th century.

10.20 Film: The Sapphires. (2012) Four Aboriginal Australian singers are propelled to stardom when they entertain American troops in the Vietnam War. Drama, starring Deborah Mailman and Chris O'Dowd.

12.00 Bowls: World Indoor Championships. **1.00 Film:** Love Is the Devil. (1998) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Rebound. (R) **10.25** Guess This House. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** River Monsters. (R) **1.05** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.05** Tipping Point. (R) **3.05** The Chase. (R) **4.05** Dance Dance Dance. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! King Size! Harry Hill showcases some of the biggest disasters captured in video form by viewers at home.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

8.00 The Voice UK. Celebrity "coaches" Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Gavin Rossdale preside over the fourth instalment of the Blind Auditions phase of the singing contest. As ever, the celebrity panel must decide whether to lend their support to each act with their backs turned to the performer, allowing only the contestants' voice to play a part in the selection process. However, as places on each coach's team begin to fill up, competition for the remaining spots in the next round will be more fierce than ever.

9.30 Through the Keyhole. Comedian and game-show host Paddy McGuinness, and presenters Caroline Flack and Dave Berry join Keith Lemon to guess: "who habitates in a house like this?".

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Cliffhanger. (1993) A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow.

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **12.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. Penelope Keith seeks out remarkable communities in Argyll and Bute, where she learns about the local Viking saga in Mull, and explores how the Crinan Canal created one of Scotland's most beautiful short cuts. The presenter also visits Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute, watches a game of shinty in Tighnabruaich, and visits the island of Easdale; a place without roads and cars. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore a network that is completely new to them as they embark on a voyage across the Netherlands. Their journey takes them to the gardens of Keukenhof and the Teylers Museum in Haarlem, before they arrive in Amsterdam, where they tour the capital's canal district – the Grachtengordel. (R)

9.00 Film: The Monuments Men. (2014) Premiere. Seven experts in fine art are assembled into a military platoon during the Second World War, and given an unusual mission. They are sent into occupied Europe to recover priceless works of art that have fallen into Nazi hands and ensure the masterpieces survive the conflict. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Matt Damon, Bill Murray and Cate Blanchett.

11.20 Film: Haywire. (2011) A mercenary working for the US government is betrayed by one of her employers and goes in search of revenge. Action thriller, with Gina Carano.

1.05 The Last Leg. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. **4.00** Hoarder SOS. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.25 Film:** Gold. (1974) **1.50** Big Bash Cricket Final: Highlights. Action from the final. **3.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **5.20** The Yorkshire Vet. (R)

6.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A tenant who turned out to be a confidence trickster and a letting agent who locked a couple out of their own buy-to-let investment property. (R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a dishonourably discharged marine is accused of beating a Japanese tourist to death, having already been linked with the rape of a businessman's daughter. He claims that he is in love with the girl he is alleged to have raped, and that the accusations being thrown in his direction are a fabrication initiated by her father.

8.00 NCIS. A young Navy Seaman is found dead, with his eyes gouged out, after being involved in a car accident. Director Vance makes a rare return to field duty, pairing up with Gibbs to investigate when it becomes clear the killing seems to be connected to the case of Kip Klugman, a former NCIS agent he once locked up for stealing evidence.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Aston Villa v Bristol City, Norwich City v Birmingham City, and Reading v Cardiff City.

9.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Bristol Rovers v Swindon Town, and Yeovil Town v Doncaster Rovers.

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they cope with living alongside one another.

11.05 Body Freaks: Old Face, New Face. Documentary following people who have had extreme cosmetic transformations. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams **8.00** Treasures of the Indus **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.35** Otis Redding: Soul Ambassador **1.40** Classic Soul at the BBC **2.40** Sings Motown **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.00 Ninja Warrior UK **12.00** Take Me Out Celebrity Special **1.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.05 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **4.05 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **5.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **11.10** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.00** Dads **2.25** Safeword **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **4.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Film: The Man from the Alamo (1953) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **12.45** Storage Wars **1.15** ITV Racing Live from Cheltenham and Doncaster. Coverage of today's race meetings at Cheltenham and Doncaster. **4.30 Film:** Lawman (1971) **5.30** FYI Daily **5.35 Film:** Lawman (1971) **6.30** Pawn Stars **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live. Coverage of day two from Milton Keynes. **11.00 Film:** Resident Evil (2002) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Resident Evil (2002) **1.05** River Monsters **2.05** Storage Wars **2.30** Sporting Funnies **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.00 Film:** School of Rock (2003) **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Gogglebox **1.15** First Dates **2.25** Virtually Famous **3.05** Chewing Gum **3.30** Revenge **4.55** The Goldbergs

Film4
1.00 The Poseidon Adventure (1972) **3.20** The House of Magic (2013) **5.05** Clueless (1995) **6.55** Millions (2004) **8.50** Loving Interview Special **9.00** Slumdog Millionaire (2008) **11.25** Yakuza Apocalypse (2015) **1.40** R100 (2013)

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CHOICE

Emily Watson

Apple Tree Yard (BBC1, 9pm)
Yvonne shuts down in the aftermath of the attack, unable to report the crime to the police or open up to her husband. Things only get worse when her attacker begins stalking her, progressing from e-mails to following her. Terrified, she turns to Costley for support. He arranges a meeting at a safe house and she becomes tempted to enlist his help in getting revenge. Gary makes a startling admission on the morning that Yvonne prepares to accompany Costley as he seeks out her attacker – which leads her into an even worse situation.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.50** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. **2.00** BBC News; Weather. **2.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Manchester United v Wigan Athletic (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present the show from the Peak District. Matt investigates a project to protect the area's moorland, while Ellie meets a photographer and a mountaineer working together on an unusual collaboration. Edith Bowman explores the East Neuk of Fife, Tom Heap reports on broadband access in rural areas, and Adam Henson completes his journey across New Zealand.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. A mysterious woman comes looking for Eric, and Kath is not convinced by his claims to have no idea who she is. Granville tries to promote the medicinal qualities of turnips.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Ursula insists the midwives do not become emotionally involved with their patients, but her harsh new approach proves hard to cope with in the face of two devastating cases. A father-to-be is badly injured in an explosion, leaving him unable to work to support his family, and a couple with dwarfism expecting their first child are warned that their child may be stillborn.

9.00 Apple Tree Yard. Yvonne is stalked by her attacker and is unable to talk to either her husband or the police. She turns to Costley for support, only to find herself plunged into a greater nightmare.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. The latest matches in the FA Cup fourth round, which included Millwall v Watford, Fulham v Hull City, and Manchester United v Wigan Athletic.

11.20 The Boy Who Tried to Kill Trump.

12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **7.15** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **8.00** An Island Parish: Anguilla. (R) **8.30** The Edible Garden. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** Figure Skating: European Championships. **1.00** Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. **2.30** Live Bowls: World Indoor Championships. The men's singles final. **5.15** Yellowstone: The Blazing Summer. (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. Including action from the World Cup night slalom in Schladming, Austria, and the women's downhill event staged in Cortina, Italy.

7.00 City in the Sky. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the advanced technology needed to ensure the safety of the one million people estimated to be travelling by plane at any given time. They discover the daily routines of air traffic controllers in the busiest airspace in the world and pilots flying thousands of miles at night. Plus, transporting horses by planes and in-flight medical advice. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of a range of dolls inspired by history, a new kind of bicycle indicator light, and a honey-infused drink made by beekeepers.

9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. New series. Reggie Yates hosts the military training challenge. The recruits are put through their paces by a former colonel in the South African Special Forces Brigade.

10.00 QI XL. Guests Colin Lane, Sarah Millican and Noel Fielding join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "numbers" in this extended episode.

10.45 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo, with rising star Tom Allen and US comedian Arj Barker. (R)

11.30 Film: The Cider House Rules. (1999) A doctor's assistant living in the orphanage where he grew up sets out to see more of life, but faces difficult moral decisions. Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine.

1.30 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.30** Holby City. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two. **5.30** Secrets of the Mona Lisa. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.35** The Voice UK. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.30 Dance Dance Dance. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host the dance contest. The celebrity contestants try to replicate routines made famous by Bruno Mars, Beyonce and Justin Bieber to impress judges Ashley Banjo, Tina Landon and Timor Steffens and secure themselves a place in next week's penultimate episode.

8.00 Endeavour. The discovery of a 2000-year-old body provides fresh evidence in a five-year-old unsolved missing persons case, so Morse and Thursday take up the investigation, discovering a possible link to a local pagan ritual to celebrate the harvest. The investigation leads them to a nuclear power station, where they face a conspiracy of silence concerning an experimental new reactor and a potential disaster that could devastate Oxford. Guest starring Sheila Hancock, widow of original Inspector Morse star John Thaw. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. (R)

11.15 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights. Action from the latest Anglo-Welsh fixtures, including Scarlets v Saracens, Sale Sharks v Cardiff Blues, Ospreys v Bristol and Leicester Tigers v Northampton Saints.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25 Film:** Epic. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **4.30** Channel 4 News. **4.55 Film:** Avatar. (2009) Sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington.

8.00 Walking the Americas. The final leg of Levison Wood's journey brings him to Panama, where he ventures through the Darien Gap, one of the world's most dangerous stretches of jungle, to reach Colombia. He also visits the Panama Canal, explores an uncharted cave that is home to vampire bats, and spends some time with an indigenous tribe living deep in the jungle. Last in the series.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie and Reda battle for their client, Quinn fights against his new life, and Saul and Dar suspect Keane has a secret. Claire Danes and Rupert Friend star.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, as Jon Richardson and David O'Doherty take on Johnny Vegas and Jamie Laing. Holly Walsh helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.00 Film: Sleepy Hollow. (1999) A sceptical 18th-century detective takes on a headless horseman who decapitates his victims. Tim Burton's gothic horror, with Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson.

1.00 How to Lose Weight Well. Dr Xand van Tulleken and dietician Hala El-Shafie help a student to slim down for her graduation day, and a groom also attempts to lose weight. (R) **1.55** Heston's Great British Food. A twist on the classic British afternoon tea, featuring a cake stand made out of sponge, a Darjeeling and hedgerow brew and an edible sandwich casino. (R) **2.50** The Autistic Gardener. Award-winning designer Alan Gardner and his team of fellow autistic horticultural enthusiasts radically update a couple's neglected plot in north east London. (R) **3.40** Win It Cook It. Two more teams of contestants answer questions to win a selection of today's mixed bag of ingredients. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Seaside Antics. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors Unleashed. (R) **12.00** Dads Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.00** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **2.00 Film:** The First Wives Club. (1996) Revenge comedy, starring Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton. **4.00 Film:** Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.

6.10 Film: Leap Year. (2010) A woman plans to take advantage of an Irish tradition to propose to her boyfriend while on holiday in Dublin. When they become separated, she faces a disastrous journey across the country in the company of a charming local innkeeper, and is tempted to leave her boyfriend for her travelling companion. Romantic comedy, starring Amy Adams, Matthew Goode and Adam Scott.

8.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4. Iain Lee narrates a compilation of internet videos featuring cats doing bizarre and humorous things. With contributions from Andi Osho, Felicity Ward and Scott Capurro.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night.

10.00 Film: Life As We Know It. (2010) Premiere. Two people who do not get on are forced to live together when they are named guardians of their dead friends' baby daughter. Comedy, starring Katherine Heigl. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm.

12.15 Film: Going the Distance. (2010) **2.00** SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Saw: The Final Chapter. (2010) **4.40** Access. **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy **8.00** British History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Rich Hall's You Can Go to Hell, I'm Going to Texas **10.30 Film:** Under the Rainbow (2013) **12.15** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **1.15** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **2.15** Bollywood and Beyond: A Century of Indian Cinema **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.30 The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.40** 2Awesome: LA Story **3.00 Film:** Inspector Gadget (1999) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** Inspector Gadget (1999) **4.35 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **8.00 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Skyfall (2012) **10.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Louisa Johnson **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.50 Wycliffe **1.55 Film:** Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30 Film:** Changeling (2008) **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40 Film:** Changeling (2008) **1.20** A Touch of Frost **3.10** May the Best House Win **4.55** On the Buses **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.45 Darts: The Masters Live. **5.00** The Darts Show **5.55** Mr Bean **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live. The semi-finals and final from Milton Keynes. **11.00 Film:** Barb Wire (1996) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** Barb Wire (1996) **1.05** River Monsters **2.05** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
3.00 The Big Bang Theory: Superheroes **7.00 Film:** X-Men (2000) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **11.50** Britain's Favourite Superhero **1.30** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.15** Rude(ish) Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
1.00 The Love Bug (1968) **3.10** The Borrowers (1997) **4.50** Sunshine on Leith (2013) **6.50** The River Wild (1994) **9.00** Now You See Me (2013) **11.15** Spring Breakers (2012) **1.05** The Kingdom of Dreams and Madness (2013) **3.30** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Hidden Truth: Lies Will Surface, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A young woman is forced to prove her brother's innocence after a teenage girl is found murdered in a California town. But she discovers a disturbing dark side to the community, and the hidden identity of the killer. Thriller, starring Shawn Christian. (2016)

TUESDAY
Fatal Memories, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Successful lawyer Sutton is confronted by a horrific scene when she returns to her family home to find her mother has been brutally stabbed to death, and her troubled younger sister April standing over the body with a bloodied knife. Despite the overwhelming evidence against her sibling, Sutton is convinced April is innocent, and sets out prove it. Mystery thriller, starring Italia Ricci and Magda Apanowicz. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Nightmare from the Past, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two decades after four high school students accidentally killed a mansion's owner, a mother faces a ghost from her youth in the form of the obsessed ex-con who paid the price for the friends' crimes. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott. (2015)

The Guardian, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY
Garage Sale Mystery 7: The Art of Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
While busy preparing for a charity garage sale event, an antique store owner discovers a body in the attic of a nearby home. Using her eye for detail, as well as her experience with antiques and murder, she sets about putting together clues to help catch a killer. Drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2016)

FRIDAY
The Guardian, BBC1, 11.55pm
A distinguished coastguard is recruited to prepare the next generation of aspiring search and rescue specialists. He meets his match with a talented and troubled rookie – a high-school swimming champion who is determined to inherit the instructor's crown. However, throughout the rigorous training the pair forge a strong friendship and settle the struggle for authority. Drama, with Kevin Costner. (2006)

Coastal journey brings back the memories

The United Kingdom has one of the world's most varied coastal landscapes, from sweeping sands and rugged cliffs, to spits and mudflats. Then there's the wealth of historic fishing villages and colourful seaside towns which attract many visitors every year.

In his latest travelogue, Robson Green explores some of Blighty's most intriguing stretches of coastline and discovers what it is about the shoreline that continues to inspire.

"Throughout my life, I've always felt happiest when near the sea," he explains. "I grew up close to the coast, and I've swam or fished off the shores of more than a 100 different countries. Now I want to explore the very edges of Britain."

The actor and presenter travels to four very different stretches of coastline, and meets people who share his passion for our shores.

In the first episode he's off to a 90-mile stretch of North Devon coast that holds childhood memories for him. His adventure begins at the popular seaside resort of Ilfracombe, a town that attracts thousands of visitors every summer.

"There are parts of North Devon that make you feel like you're stepping back in time," explains Robson. "So I'm hoping this journey will help me understand just how and why our love affair with the coast began."

Our Victorian ancestors' desire to be beside the seaside was so great, they would often go to extraordinary lengths to access the best places to soak up the sun. Privately owned tidal pools, with steep cliffs offered the perfect shelter for bathing, but they could only be accessed by boat, so almost 200 years ago, hundreds of Welsh miners were tasked with carving a network of tunnels through the cliffs, to open the pools up to the public.

Aside from investigating a Victorian invention designed to avoid embarrassing swimwear mishaps while changing, Green also sees how the high tidal ranges and craggy rocks make the perfect habitat for marine life.

Following a night under canvas, the eponymous star takes a boat ride 10-miles southwest of Bideford, to the port of Clovelly. With its cobbled streets and 13th-century harbour, the village evokes the character and atmosphere of a bygone age.

Given its picturesque appeal, there's little wonder it has featured in film versions of Sense and Sensibility and Treasure Island. However, after arriving in this quiet seaside village, Robson is involved in a true life drama and a real rescue mission.

Later, he visits Lundy, a dozen miles off the North Devon coast; it's one of the UK's most unspoiled islands. However, just getting there proves to be a struggle, thanks to the Bristol Channel whose choppy waters leave the star a little green around the gills.

With feet back on terra firma, he's soon suspended precariously over it as he scales the sea cliff on the west side of the island known as the Devil's Slide. At 400-feet in length, it's the largest slab of granite in Europe.

Once a pop star, it seems Robson is now keen on becoming a rock star, but as the show reveals, it's not long before his mind starts playing tricks on him.

Tales from the Coast with Robson Green, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Undercover: Britain's Cheap Clothes - Channel 4 Dispatches
Channel 4, 8pm
The British public have certainly taken internet shopping to their hearts – a few years ago, Black Friday and Cyber Monday were largely unknown concepts in the UK, but this year these pre-Christmas sales days saw us spend almost £6.5billion online. In her continuing investigation into Britain's cheap clothing market, Morland Sanders looks into what the home-delivery economy boom means for the workers in some of the 1,500 warehouses that have sprung up in Britain to service these orders. Secret filming shows the realities of operatives walking miles of floorspace a day to make sure the clothes are dispatched during the busiest time of year and also asks what happens if an employee is unwell, turns up late or doesn't want to work overtime.

TUESDAY
Further Back in Time for Dinner
BBC2, 8pm
The Robshaw family enter the turbulent 1910s and the First World War turns all their lives upside down, putting Rochelle back in the kitchen instead of servant Debbie. Never a natural cook, she struggles to feed the family as supplies start to run out and the war puts an end to their previously carefree lives. However, the decade has its positives too with the freedom of a bike ride and an idyllic picnic, and a visit from celebrity chef John Torode - but even he cannot salvage something tasty from 1918's fish sausages.

WEDNESDAY
DIY SOS: The Big Build
BBC1, 9pm
There was a time when the original DIY SOS was just Nick Knowles and a bunch of mates having a laugh as they raced against the clock to transform peoples' houses, and lives. Then the projects became more serious as it became obvious that viewers in floods of tears equalled good ratings. The Big Build continues to pluck at the heart strings with one of the most moving editions to date. Nick, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and the team are in the Worcestershire village of Eckington to help 17-year-old Antonia Payne-Cheney. She has a rare condition called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome that causes her joints to regularly dislocate. And because she can't eat normally, she has to be fed through a tube. The builders need to create a sterile space for medical procedures in her bedroom, a specially adapted wet room and an area where she can socialise with friends and family. Have those hankies on stand-by. You may need them.

Tracey Ullman's Show, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

THURSDAY
Parenting for Idiots
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. Light-hearted documentary in which a cast of famous faces reveal the many sides of modern parenting in a succession of magic moments and horror stories, while child-free celebrities experience the realities of looking after a child for the first time. Episode one focuses on the different types of chaos that ensue from having children, with Sally Phillips discussing living with nits, Frankie Boyle revealing how his children embarrass him, and Andrew Flintoff divulging a few truths about the Tooth Fairy. Plus, non-parents Jamie Laing and Mark-Francis Vandelli get a taste of parenthood by looking after a five-month-old baby for the day.

FRIDAY
Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final
Channel 5, 9pm
After four-and-a-half weeks of nominations, tasks, evictions and walkouts, the nail-biting moment has finally arrived for the remaining All Stars and New Stars to hear the public's verdict. Emma Willis whittles them down one by one until this year's winner is known – but not before Marcus Bentley narrates highlights of their last day in the house.

Tracey Ullman's Show
BBC1, 9.30pm
New series. The start of a fresh run of comedy sketches featuring the talented entertainer, who made her name in the UK in the early 1980s before settling for some time in the United States. Delinquent Dame Judi Dench is back, but will being a National Treasure be enough to save her this time? Ambitious politician Nicola Sturgeon has her sights set on more than just Scotland, while there's a heartfelt song from German leader Angela Merkel.

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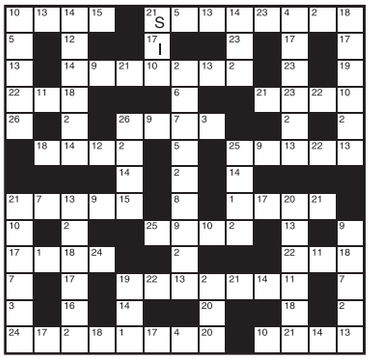
BRAIN GYM No.413

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



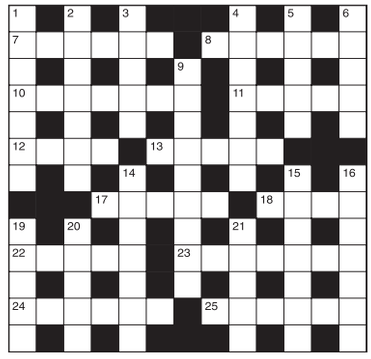
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 I
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21 S
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	J	O	N	T	W	K	S	Z	Y	C	L	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	B	P	A	G	D	X	I	Q	R	U	M	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. No ride smoothed out (6)
8. Develop half-love after love returned (6)
10. Cruel, as outside the church (7)
11. Knotty points for those voting against - about 500 (5)
12. In addition; I object about alternative indicator (4)
13. Night object (5)
17. External appearance of ropes, say (5)
18. Court dunderhead in the trees (4)
22. It's all right to bring father back to take one animal (5)
23. About to beat, drive back (7)
24. Trance-producing drink (6)
25. Took part in musical game, perhaps (6)

Down

1. Charming, maybe, but won't charm everybody's heart (7)
2. 100 having a sure winner in entertainment (7)
3. Part of 9 is nothing more than a prisoner's room (5)
4. Getting everybody on a level at the end of the day? (7)
5. Go smoothly along with learner in the team (5)
6. Stop 100 getting relief (5)
9. Roar madly about box with instruments in it (9)
14. Make false claim about America being notedly harmonious (7)
15. Simultaneous discharges of missiles on court? (7)
16. A theologian to finish article in appendix (7)
19. Meat in the meeting place (5)
20. When steps are taken by the troops? (5)
21. Fruit to put very quietly in drink (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Fixed (6)
8. Cope (6)
10. Speech (7)
11. Boats (5)
12. Solicitude (4)
13. Niggard (5)
17. Hold up (5)
18. Stockings (4)
22. Commerce (5)
23. Detestable (7)
24. Trust (6)
25. Decisive moment (6)

Down

1. Foretell (7)
2. Affect (7)
3. Lukewarm (5)
4. School bag (7)
5. Heathen (5)
6. Pier (5)
9. Aversion (9)
14. Fault (7)
15. Admit (7)
16. Hermit (7)
18. Adhere (5)
20. Hesitate (5)
21. Tale (5)

Sudoku

7	9				1			
2			7	5		6		
	4			9				3
	6				5		3	4
		3		4		2		
4	8		9		6		7	
		4					2	
	7	8		2	9			1
			4				8	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	6	8	2	9	7	5	4	3
7	9	4	6	3	5	2	8	1
2	3	5	1	4	8	9	6	7
8	2	7	3	1	9	6	5	4
5	1	6	4	8	2	3	7	9
3	4	9	7	5	6	8	1	2
4	5	3	8	2	1	7	9	6
6	8	1	9	7	3	4	2	5
9	7	2	5	6	4	1	3	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 All up; 4 Lunatic; 8 Conduct; 9 Wooer; 10 Most; 11 Entrance; 13 Dive; 14 Here; 16 Accurate; 17 Open; 20 Image; 21 Remorse; 22 Greatly; 23 Treat.
Down: 1 Accommodating; 2 Lines; 3 Pout; 4 Latent; 5 Newsreel; 6 Trounce; 7 Correspondent; 12 Overheat; 13 Declare; 15 Stormy; 18 Purge; 19 Emit.
QUICK - Across: 1 Repel; 4 Repress; 8 Project; 9 Topic; 10 Ease; 11 Decrease; 13 Deed; 14 Gain; 16 Severity; 17 Maze; 20 Barge; 21 Irksome; 22 Element; 23 Press. Down: 1 Reprehensible; 2 Pious; 3 Lees; 4 Rather; 5 Paternal; 6 Explain; 7 Secretiveness; 12 Reprieve; 13 Divorce; 15 Strict; 18 Alone; 19 Skip.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who wrote the Aldwych farces of the 1920s?
2. Of which well-known effect is red shift an example?
3. In which market town did Judge Jeffreys hold the Bloody Assizes of 1685?
4. Which health resort lies between Lakes Brienz and Thun?
5. Which King Harold was killed at the Battle of Hastings?
6. In which art gallery is the Mona Lisa?
7. Which mathematical functions did John Napier discover in 1614?
8. Between which three fruits is the ugli a cross?
9. Which sugar forms five per cent of cow's milk?
10. Who wrote And Quiet Flows The Don?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Swiss; 2 US Civil War; 3 James Kelman; 4 The Blue Angel; 5 Menelaus; 6 Manitoba; 7 Four; 8 Sodium; 9 A water bug; 10 French Revolutionary calendar.

Niner: DISPROVEN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

26352 gives a blood vessel,
23583489 gives blood vessels,
13247 gives part of the nervous system.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, January 26, 2017

Photo Finnish – one of the national park lakes in Helsinki surrounded by forest

Hot stuff – Santiago from San Cristobal Hill, Chile

Oh what a sight – the ruins of the ancient city in Paphos Archaeological Park, in Cyprus

King of the jungle – a ring-tailed lemur in Madagascar

Destinations off the beaten track

REMEDY January blues by planning your holidays. Fancy a new experience, here are four overseas locations to top this year's wish-list for far away, and not-so-far-away, destinations.

SANTIAGO, CHILE: Best for long haul

This month, British Airways launch their longest flight, a 14-hour and 40-minute direct route from London Heathrow to Chilean capital, Santiago. (Flights from £680 return if booked in March; www.britishairways.com)

Delve into the life of Nobel Prize-winning poet and political activist Pablo Neruda, the subject of new acclaimed art house film – Neruda – starring Gael Garcia Bernal. Neruda's three eccentric houses have been transformed into museums; two along the coast in Valparaiso and Isla Negra, and one in Santiago's Bellavista district. Visit www.fundacionneruda.org/en for opening times and entry prices.

A 10-minute walk away, across the capital's fast-flowing Mapocho River, lies trendy area Lastarria, home to new boutique hotel Magnolia. Built in 1929, the former family home has been restored to its former Neo-Gothic glory, with an elegant bar and reading library. Rooms from £145 with breakfast, visit hotelmagnolia.cl

FINLAND: Best for short haul

This December, Finland celebrates 100 years of independence from the Russian Republic, with celebrations and new openings happening throughout 2017.

The most exciting project is the designation of new national park Hossa, in eastern Finland's Kainuu region, which will become the outdoor-loving nation's largest protected nature area.

Hike trails, canoe waterways, or seek out Stone Age rock paintings. Overnight in a cabin or embrace the wilderness by camping; bookings can be made at the Hossa Visitor Centre (www.nationalparks.fi/en/hossavisitorcentre).

Although the woodland setting perfectly matches author Tove Jansson's whimsical imagination, you won't bump into any Moomins in Hossa. Instead, head to Tampere, in June, when the newly renovated Moomin Museum opens, showcasing more than 2,000 pieces of memorabilia (muumilaakso.tampere.fi/en). Everyone is invited to the party from August 25-27, when outdoor tables will be laid across the country for Finland's ambitious Let's Eat Together festival (syodaanyhdessa.fi/in-english).

MADAGASCAR: Best for wildlife

Revered for its endemic wildlife, most notably the charismatic lemur, this African island, lapped by the Indian Ocean, is benefiting from improved infrastructure and accommodation options.

Managed by Norman Carr Safaris, the new Miavana resort sits on Nosy Ankao, part of a private five-island archipelago off the north-east tip of the mainland. Dissected by lagoons and fringed with reefs, it's ideally located for observing the island's marine bio-diversity.

Visit between June and November to spot migrating humpback whales. To find out more, see www.timeandtideafrica.com/miavana (the property is due to open early 2017).

A more economical option for exploring Madagascar is G Adventures' new eight-day Baobab & Tsingy Explorer trip, focussing on the central region and its famous spiky rock formations. The trip costs from £999 per person, excluding flights; visit www.gadventures.com

PAPHOS, CYPRUS: Best for culture

Offset hours spent snoozing on a sunlounger by clocking up cultural pursuits in 2017's balmy European Capital of Culture.

Throughout the year, 300 events will be staged against a backdrop of Hellenistic tombs and Roman fortresses in the birthplace of ancient goddess Aphrodite on the island's south-west coast.

A varied programme will include open-air concerts in the medieval Castle Square, cinema screenings on the beach, dance shows in the street and an art exhibition along the Akamas Peninsula. For more details, visit www.pafos2017.eu

The mosaics of Nea Paphos (Aphrodite's Sacred City) are rated among the most beautiful in the world and have earned Unesco World Heritage status. In October, archaeologist Sharon Walker from the British Museum will be hosting a series of workshops about the mosaics at Paphos' sophisticated beachside Almyra hotel. Rooms cost from £86 per night with breakfast; www.thanoshotels.com

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Gated entrance to unique two-bed secluded bungalow

This unique two-bedroomed bungalow in Sherlock Close, Willenhall lies on a secluded plot behind a private gated entrance.

Having adaptable living accommodation, it is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £269,995. It briefly comprise an entrance hall, a lounge, an impressive 17ft x 12ft conservatory, a kitchen/diner with fitted appliances, two nicely proportioned bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property also has double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

Outside there is extensive parking to the fore. There is also a garage which offers conversion potential (subject to building regulations).

To the rear of the property is a private enclosed garden. This home is superbly situated for access to a wide range of local amenities and excellent transport links.

It is a very individual prospect set on a generous plot that requires internal inspection to allow full appreciation.

In more detail a driveway leads to the front/side of the property.

The entrance hall has a storage cupboard, airing cupboard and ceramic tiled flooring. Having a gas fire on a marble hearth, the lounge also has patio doors opening to the conservatory.

With dwarf brick walls, this has a ceiling light point with fan, two radiators and ceramic tiled flooring .

The kitchen/diner has a range of fitted wall and base units with complementary work surfaces over, tiled splash backs, integrated appliances of a Neff fridge, freezer, combination microwave oven, washer/dryer and an Ariston eye level electric oven and separate halogen hob with extractor hood over, stainless steel 1 1/2 bowl sink, ceiling spotlights, a window to the rear and a side access door.

Bedroom one has a range of fitted wardrobes and cupboards, a tall radiator and a window to the front. Bedroom two has a decorative ceiling rose, tall radiator and window to the front.

The family bathroom has a low level WC, pedestal wash hand basin, panel bath with a mixer tap, shower head and electric shower over, majority ceramic tiled walls, ceramic tiled flooring, recessed ceiling spotlights, chrome ladder towel rail and window to the side.

WILLENHALL £269,995

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: L&S Prestige Estates
TEL: 01902 606595
EMAIL: info@prestige-estatesuk.com

KEY FEATURES

- Two bedrooms
- Unique home
- Secluded plot
- Adaptable accommodation
- Gated entrance

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No chain involved in sale of family home

WALSALL

£154,995

With gardens, off road parking and an integrated garage, 11 Glebe Street, Walsall is a four-bedroomed property for sale through Redstones at £154,995 with no chain.

The property further comprises of a reception hall, a guest WC, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, a family shower room, front and rear gardens, off road parking and an integrated garage.

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off to the first floor. The kitchen has a stainless steel sink and drainer, roll top working surfaces, tilled surrounds, a four-ring gas hob, an extractor hood, a combination boiler and plumbing and space for appliances. The shower room has a low level WC, pedestal wash hand basin, shower cubicle with an electric shower and tiled surrounds.

Call 01922 235350 www.redstones.co.uk

An open plan renovated two bedroom end terrace home

WILLENHALL

£99,995 <<<

This superbly presented and recently renovated two-bedroomed end terrace property in Temple Road, Willenhall is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £99,995.

Its nicely proportioned living accommodation comprises of a lounge, a separate dining room with an open plan access into a modern fitted kitchen, a ground floor bathroom and two double bedrooms on the first floor.

The property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating throughout. outside there is a small paved garden to the fore and generous yard to the rear.

The property is also superbly situated for access to a wide range of local amenities, popular local schools and excellent transport links.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 or visit the website www.prestige-estatesuk.com

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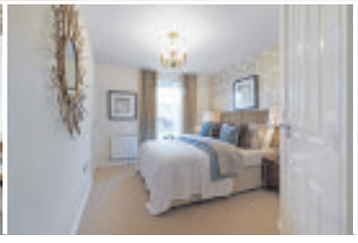

Photographs of typical Kier showhome interiors. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Available on selected plots reserved by 30th January 2017 subject to terms and conditions. **Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. † Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Investment property or an ideal first buy

WALSALL

£100,000

An ideal first time or investment buy, this three-bedroomed home in Webster Road, Walsall has planning permission to extend it to five bedrooms.

It is for sale through Webbs at £100,000 with no chain. It is situated on a corner plot in a popular location, being close to all local amenities and schools. Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, a lounge, a dining room, a fitted kitchen/diner, a guest WC, three bedrooms and a family bathroom, gardens and a driveway.

Contact Webbs on 01922 663399 or visit www.webbsestateagents.co.uk

An extended detached five-bed property on corner plot

WILLENHALL

£260,000 <<<

This extended detached property in Dursley Close, Willenhall has five bedrooms and lies on a corner plot.

New to the property market and having impressive accommodation, it is for sale through Skitts at £260,000

It has a block paved driveway, an entrance hall, an L-shaped lounge/diner, an impressive kitchen/family room, a utility, five bedrooms and a bathroom and garage and gas central heating.

In more detail the kitchen/family room has a built in gas oven, central island with an integrated gas hob and extractor hood, one and a half bowl sink unit, doors to the garage, utility and rear.

Call Skitts on 01902 631151 or visit www.skitts.net

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This stylish contemporary home is now available

Having just joined the property market, this stunning and stylish contemporary property in Harden Road, Walsall is now available to buy through Goodchilds at £161,500.

Plot 204 is in The Curlew design. It is an impressive three bedroom family home at Waters Keep, Walsall. It has a lounge with a bay window, an open plan kitchen/dining room, an en-suite to the master bedroom, a downstairs WC, French doors to the rear garden, there spacious bedrooms, a family bathroom and useful storage space. The entrance hallway leads onto a large lounge with an attractive Bay window and French doors that open onto a private rear garden. There is also an open plan kitchen/diner, useful storage space and downstairs WC.

WALSALL

£161,500

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Finery Road
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£199,950 OFFERS

1 | 4 | 2 | EPC C

Shelton Close
WEDNESBURY
AUCTION
£125,000

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC C

Oakeswell Street
WEDNESBURY
£138,500 OFFERS

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC E

Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane
£115,000 OFFERS

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC F

Wells Avenue
WEDNESBURY
NEW
£170,000 OFFERS

1 | 4 | 2 | EPC C

Greenwood Road
WEST BROMWICH
£128,000 OFFERS

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Hall Crescent
WEST BROMWICH
£154,950 OFFERS

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC D

Laburnum Road
WEDNESBURY
NEW
£115,000

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Mark Avenue
WEDNESBURY
NEW
£130,000

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Churchfields Road
WEDNESBURY
NEW
£180,000 OFFERS

1 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Paul Dubberley

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GREAT BRIDGE WEST BROMWICH

Charlotte Close, Tividale, Oldbury, B69
£119,950

<p>SUMMARYModern Middle Terrace Offering Immaculate Internal Accommodation for which viewing is highly recommended. Having the benefit of gas central heating, upvc double glazing and sought

Doughty Close, Tipton, DY4
£66,950

<p>SUMMARYFANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY To Purchase A LUXURY MODERN APARTMENT With Tenant Paying £425 pcm, potential yield 7.3%. Located on a SOUGHT AFTER DEVELOPMENT whilst having

Cupfields Crescent, Tipton, DY4
£79,950

<p>SUMMARYMiddle Terrace having the benefit of gas central heating, upvc double glazing and offering NO UPWARD CHAIN. Ideal First Time Purchase whilst briefly comprising, PORCH, Reception hall, Lounge,

Monins Avenue, Tipton, DY4
£65,000

<p>SUMMARYModern FIRST FLOOR Apartment Offering LARGER THAN AVERAGE Accommodation. Situated In A GOOD LOCATION and making an ideal first time purchase or buy to let

Lindley Avenue, Tipton, DY4
£120,000

<p>SUMMARYImpressive Extended Traditional Semi Detached located in a sought after area providing good family accommodation. Offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating, no upward chain and

Bartlett Close, Tipton, DY4
£114,850

<p>SUMMARYEXTENDED Semi Detached - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating - Quiet CUL DE SAC Location - NO UPWARD CHAIN - Viewing Recommended - Reception Hall, Lounge / Dining Room,

Ash Road, Tipton, DY4
£119,950

<p>SUMMARYSemi Detached Family Home Occupying an excellent corner position.DESCRIPTIONSemi Detached Family Home Occupying an excellent corner position.1. MONEY LAUNDERING

Park Street, Tipton, DY4
£119,950

<p>SUMMARYSpacious Middle Terrace Offering the benefit of upvc double glazing and gas central heating. EXCELLENT SIZE family accommodation and situated in a SOUGHT AFTER

Wrens Hill Road, Dudley, DY1
£105,950

<p>SUMMARYSemi Detached Home Occupying a CORNER PLOT, whilst being ideal for a first time buyer or buy to let.DESCRIPTIONSemi Detached Home Occupying a corner plot,

Old Port Close, Tipton, DY4
£65,000

<p>SUMMARYModern PURPOSE BUILT GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT having the benefit of upvc double glazing, electric heating and having LOVELY CANAL VIEWS. Well presented accomodation, ideal

Charlemont Crescent, West Bromwich, B71
£210,000

A three bedroom traditional style semi-detached house briefly comprising of an enatrance hallway, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating (where specified)

Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, B70
£175,000

A three bedroom semi-detached house, offering an entrance hall, four reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wet room and an upstairs family bathroom.

Hampshire Road, West Bromwich, B71
£145,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, a ground floor bedroom with en-suite bathroom. A kitchen, enclosed side access, upstairs wet room, central heating

The Broadway, West Bromwich, B71
£139,950

A three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, upstairs family bathroom, central heating (where specified)

Ash Drive, West Bromwich, B71
£130,000

A three bedroom traditional style semi detached house briefly comprising of a porch, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating (where specified)

Monkgate Drive, West Bromwich, B71
£125,000

A three bedroom modern style semi-detached property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, downstairs WC, lounge, kitchen/diner, upstairs family bathroom, central heating (where specified)

Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich, B70
£115,000

A three bedroom mid terraced house briefly comprising of a shared porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen and a downstairs bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gardens to front and rear and a rear

Griffiths Road, West Bromwich, B71
£115,000

A two bedroom semi detached house briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, through lounge, kitchen, utility/sun room, upstairs bathroom, gas central heating (where specified)

Crankhall Lane
£95,000

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment comprising; open plan lounge and kitchen, family bathroom, an en-suite shower room, electric radiators,double glazing, and an allocated parking space

Old Meeting Street, West Bromwich, B70
£85,000

A two bedroom second floor apartment briefly comprising of communal hallways and stairs leading to all upper floors, an entrance hallway, open plan lounge/kitchen, gas central heating

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Paul Dubberley

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WEDNESBURY

Manorhouse Close, Walsall, WS1

£140,000

<p>SUMMARYAn attractive contemporary style 3 BEDROOM property, offering ENSUITE to master, MODERN KITCHEN, OFF ROAD PARKING, NO CHAIN, with great access to main TRANSPORT

Heathfield Lane West, Wednesbury, WS10

£130,000

<p>SUMMARYEXTENDED & AVAILABLE WITH NO CHAIN - a three bedroom semi detached residence with accommodation further featuing two reception rooms, kitchen with breakfast area and first floor

Foster Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£204,995

<p>SUMMARYEXTENDED DETACHED RESIDENCE - HUGELY VERSATILE - CURRENTLY BEING USED AS FIVE BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION.DESCRIPTIONEXTENDED DETACHED

Delville Close, Wednesbury, WS10

£60,000

<p>SUMMARYGROUND FLOOR MAISONETTE - NO CHAIN. Accommodation featuring one double bedroom, lounge, kitchen & shower room. Externally, there are communal grounds.DESCRIPTION

Charlotte Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£110,000

<p>SUMMARYEnd-terraced 3 BEDROOM home with a REAR EXTENSION, property has OFF ROAD PARKING to the front, is close to all local amenities and GREAT TRANSPORT LINKS. Offering NO

Cope Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£95,000

<p>SUMMARYAN ATTRACTIVE DOUBLE FRONTED TERRACE RESIDENCE comprising three bedrooms, two reception rooms, first floor bathroom, kitchen & enclosed rear garden. VIEWING IS ADVISED TO

Hall Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£69,500

<p>SUMMARYA MODERN GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT WHICH MAY SUIT A FIRST TIME PURCHASER OR LANDLORD - Accommodation includes two bedrooms, a lounge, modern kitchen &

Cobham Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£120,000

<p>SUMMARYA WELL PRESENTED END TERRACE PROPERTY BENEFITING FROM OFF ROAD PARKING & A CONSERVATORY. Accommodation further features three bedrooms, lounge, modern style

Wakes Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£130,000

<p>SUMMARYCHAIN FREE WITH AN OPEN REAR ASPECT - A semi detached property featuring three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, lounge, dining room & kitchen. Externally, there is off road parking, a

Old Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£60,000

<p>SUMMARYA NEATLY PRESENTED END TERRACE BUNGALOW BEING OFFERED TO BUYERS OVER THE AGE OF 55 - Priced as a 50% share & being situated within a gated walkway the

Hobs Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£142,500

<p>SUMMARYA MUCH IMPROVED & WELL PRESENTED TRADITIONAL FAMILY HOME BEING OFFERED WITH NO ONGOING CHAIN - Accommodation includes three bedrooms, a lounge & dining

Myvod Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£129,950

<p>SUMMARYWELL PRESENTED & CHAIN FREE - A smart semi detached residence featuring three bedrooms, lounge, contemporary style kitchen with dining space & first floor bathroom.

Vicar Street, Wednesbury, WS10

£109,950

<p>SUMMARYTRADITIONAL END TERRACED property with 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS. The property is located close to Wednesbury town, has great transport links being close to the MOTORWAY, BUS

Phoenix Rise, Wednesbury, WS10

£95,000

<p>SUMMARYMODERN STYLE & WELL PRESENTED - A mid terrace property featuring two bedrooms, smart kitchen, lounge & first floor bathroom with white suite. Externally, there is off road parking & a

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury, WS10

£170,000

<p>SUMMARYNO UPWARD CHAIN! A MODERN STYLE DETACHED PROPERTY OFFERING ACCOMMODATION PRESENTED TO A HIGH STANDARD.DESCRIPTIONNO UPWARD CHAIN! A

Shaftesbury Road, Wednesbury, WS10

£135,000

<p>SUMMARYTRADITIONAL EXTENDED PROPERTY WITH NO CHAIN - A spacious semi detached home set in a sought after residential location with accommodation featuring three bedrooms, two reception

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Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston

NEW

- TWO BEDROOM MODERN HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £204,950.00

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- SEPERATE LARGE ANNEX
- CONSERVATORY AND OUTHOUSE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £199,950.00

Milcote Road, Smethwick

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- EPC RATING: E

Offers In Excess Of £169.950.00

Winchester Road, West Bromwich

NEW

- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING FOR TWO CARS
- NICELY DECORATED THROUGHOUT
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £104,950.00

Mansfield Road, Aston

NEW

- TWO BEDROOM MAISONETTE
- LOCATED ON THE 1ST FLOOR
- NEUTRAL DECOR THROUGHOUT
- EPC RATING: C

Offers In Excess Of £69,950.00

Sandwell Road, Birmingham

NEW

- SIX BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
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Monthly Rental Of £925.00

George Wood Avenue, Oldbury

NEW

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- NEUTRAL DECOR THROUGHOUT
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- AVAILABLE 1.2.2017

Monthly Rental Of £895.00

Regan Drive, Oldbury

NEW

- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- WORKING PROFESSIONALS ONLY
- LOCATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- AVAILABLE 1.2.2017

Monthly Rental Of 795.00

Palmerston Drive, Tividale

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE/DINER
- SOUTH FACING PROPERTY WITH A LARGE AMOUNT OF NATURAL LIGHT
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE

Offers in Excess of £219,950.00

Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £184,950.00

Little Lane, West Bromwich

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOUSE
- LARGE BEDROOMS
- TWO SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in Excess of £114,950.00

Cateswell Road, Sparkbrook

REDUCED

- FOUR BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FIRST FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £224,950

Holliday Street, Birmingham City Centre

REDUCED

- FIRST FLOOR ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
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Old College Avenue, Oldbury

REDUCED

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Throne Road, Rowley Regis, B65 9JG

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- OFF ROAD PARKING

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Galton Road, Bearwood

- Delightful Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Through Lounge
- Packed Full Of Character
- Situated In The Heart Of Bearwood
- EP Rating D

£210,000

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £214,950

Galton Road, Bearwood

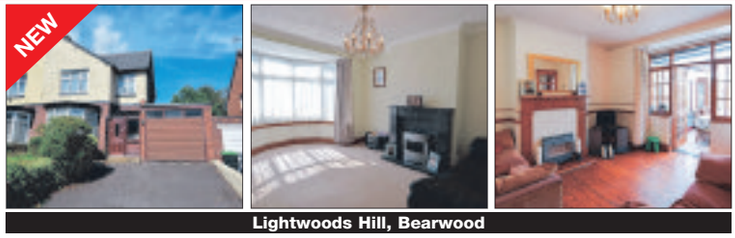
- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £199,950

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £219,950



Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Recepption Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £305,000

Warley Croft, Oldbury

- Beautifully Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- Ideal Family Home
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £289,950

Mill Hill, Smethwick

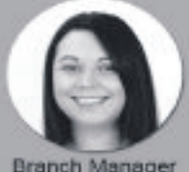
- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £134,950

Kinsey Road, Smethwick

- Delightful First Floor Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Allocated Parking Space
- Ideal First Purchase or Buy To Let
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £115,000



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Weston Avenue, Tividale

A contemporary refurbished semi detached property is being offered for sale on Weston Avenue. Comprising, living room, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom, driveway, front and rear gardens, double glazed and centrally heated. An ideal first time purchase or investment.

Offers Around £129,950

Harvington Road, Oldbury

WOW! WOW! WOW! Liberty estate Agents are pleased to offer this well maintained family home comprising, porch, entrance hallway, reception room, delightful kitchen/diner, utility room, three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, D/G and C/H where specified, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £145,000

Priory Road, Dudley

IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT!! Liberty Estate Agents are pleased to offer this semi detached property with no onward chain comprising, porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, D/G and C/H where specified, garage, driveway

Offers Around £139,950

Wiggin Street, Birmingham

IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY OR FIRST PURCHASE!! Liberty Estate Agents are pleased to offer this mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, shower room, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, solar panels, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!

Offers Around £119,950

Barrett Street, Smethwick

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!! Liberty Estate Agents are pleased to offer this modern end town house in this desirable location comprising, reception room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms (master en suite), family bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, parking. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!

Offers Around £165,000

Europa, Birmingham

Liberty Estate Agents are pleased to offer this modern 4th floor City Centre apartment in the Europa section of the Jupiter development comprising, open plan lounge and kitchen, double bedroom. good sized bathroom. There is also a secure under ground parking space. Currently rented at £675 PCM

Offers Around £144,950

Sydenham Road, Smethwick

IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY OR FIRST PURCHASE!!! Liberty Estate Agents are pleased to offer this terraced property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden. OFFERED WITH NO ONWARD CHAIN!!!

Offers Around £105,000

Stony Street, SMETHWICK

Family home comprising, porch, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, loft room, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens, driveway. NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £140,000

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ROWLEY REGIS
TRURO CLOSE £102,500

2 · 1 · 1

Well maintained and presented modern terraced house with the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating. Conveniently situated and WARRANTING FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION. EPC Rating TBC

OLDBURY
TITFORD ROAD £315,000

3 · 3 · 1

An opportunity to aquire a mixed Residential and Commercial premises comprising of detached family residence known as 'Providence Cottage' together with yard, detached stores/offices and a garage workshop. Central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E

WEST BROMWICH
SANDWELL ROAD NORTH £209,950

2 · 1 · 1

A detached bungalow situated within half a mile of Sandwell Valley Country Park & Dartmouth Park benefitting from central heating, double glazing, private rear garden and garage and parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D

ROWLEY REGIS
THRONE ROAD £184,950

3 · 1 · 1

Completely refurbished spacious semi-detached family with the benefit of built-in appliances to kitchen and additional utility room, substantial parking to front, gardens front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E.

OLDBURY
EAST AVENUE £119,950

3 · 1 · 1

Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D

OLDBURY
PRYOR ROAD £179,950

2 · 2 · 1

Extended semi-detached house with the benefit of a conservatory and dressing room, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden with summer house, garage and parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.

ROWLEY REGIS
WINCHESTER CLOSE £65,000

0 · 0 · 0

A recently re-decorated and well-presented second floor flat comprising communal entrance, uPVC entrance door, hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, double glazing, electric heating, allocated and communal parking. EPC Rating E.

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Couple find perfect home thanks to Kier

Kier Living

One of the first families to move to the new Brownhills housing development have praised their new home.

The Espley-Atkin's moved onto Kier Living's Waterside Place development in November when their house was one of the first to be completed on the site.

Recently married in August, the couple purchased the home to start a fresh new chapter in their lives.

Darren, aged 31, a sales executive who works in Reading, and Maria, 41, a receptionist in Cannock, immediately fell in love with the property upon visiting the development for the very first time.

Extras

"We looked at a number of new build developments in the area, but nothing compared to what Kier Living had to offer," said Darren.

"Our home comes complete with many additional extras such as washer/dryer and fridge freezer for example – items that other builders charge for.

"The development is also ideally located for us with great commuter links making it easier to get to work and has plenty of local amenities. We are especially looking forward to taking our pet Labrador Jazz for many walks alongside the nearby canal.

"The idea of decorating our own blank canvas really excites us and we can't wait to make this house our home."

Darren and Maria purchased a 'Fairbourne' three-storey home for them and their children Brad aged 18 and Caitli, 16.

They particularly liked the split level design of the living space, meaning they could have their own space on the top floor while the children enjoyed the sanctuary of their own bedrooms.

CONTACT US

Kier Living

Tel: 01767 355500

Web: www.kierliving.co.uk

Having previously rented a property, the couple used the Government-backed Help to Buy scheme to make their move happen.

The initiative allows buyers to purchase a property with only a five per cent deposit and helps to fund up to 20 per cent of the purchase price in the form of an equity loan.

Darren added: "One of the many benefits with moving to a new build is that our monthly outgoings will be considerably less.

"For a start our monthly mortgage is more or less half of what we used to pay in rent.

"We'll also benefit from reduced heating bills because of the energy efficient build.

"We are very pleased with the design and quality of the house.

"However, if we need any assistance we are comforted in the knowledge that there is a ten year home warranty and a two year Kier Living customer care programme in place.

"The service we received from Sam the sales advisor was excellent and we had good communication throughout.

"She was quick and responsive and all of the information about Help to Buy was easy to understand.

"It was stress free too as the mortgage adviser dealt with everything on our behalf.

"We can't praise the staff at Kier Living enough and would highly recommend them to anyone looking to buy a brand new home."

Waterside Place is a stunning development of two, three and four-bedroom homes with prices starting from £133,995.

For more information visit www.kierliving.co.uk

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CGI of The Rableigh 3 bedroom home. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

Quality residences from Cameron Homes

Cameron Homes

Cameron Homes, which is amongst the Midlands' most respected building companies, is creating some superb developments at locations throughout the region in 2017.

High quality residences, all carefully designed and finished to an exacting specification, are being provided by the long-established Staffordshire-based building company.

This means that the new year could mean a fresh start in a brand new Cameron home for many people – and by using one of the company's most successful sales incentives, the move can be a hassle-free reality.

Andy Gough, Sales and Marketing Director of Chasetown-based Cameron, explains that the part exchange scheme is a popular way to purchase a new property.

"Part exchange, where we buy a customers' existing home, worked very well in 2016, with many people taking advantage of it, and we expect it to be just as popular in the coming 12 months. As a family-owned company we pride ourselves not only on the high standard of our properties but also on our excellent customer care and we have a range of other ways to help, such as offering financial advice and guidance," he says.

Cameron has several established developments where the part exchange incentive is available. At Keepers Cross, in Tividale, the company is providing a contemporary collection of 54 two, three and four bedroom homes with excellent links to Dudley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Customers can choose from 14 stylish layouts, many of which offer garages and en suite master bedrooms.

Bourne Fields is Cameron's flagship development, featuring an elegant collection of 14 remarkable five-bedroom residences at an enviable address.

With a premium specification and a desirable location between Aldridge and Streetly, Bourne Fields is the epitome of luxury living. All 14 homes feature everything you'd expect from a showcase Cameron collection, including a stunning kitchen, a sumptuous master suite and spectacular open plan living spaces.

Coney Lodge, in Burntwood, is set back from Rugeley Road and is hidden by mature trees. This is a select development of just eight beautifully-designed three and four-bedroom residences. The collection borders acres of countryside, on the edge of Gentleshaw Common.

At Tatenhill, Staffordshire, Oakhurst is a collection of just eight beautifully designed four-bedroom homes, located approximately three miles from Burton upon Trent. These exclusive residences will each feature an integral garage, a spacious master suite and a modern open plan kitchen with bi-fold doors.

Lakeside Apartments, at Barton under Needwood, is a development of 54 two-bedroom apartments offering the highest-standard of specification, security and style. With restaurants, bars and delicatessens on one side and woodland, lakes and towpaths on the other, life at Lakeside Apartments allows you to explore a new side of life every day. The first phase of apartments is anticipated to go on sale early 2017. Cameron's new development in Hill Ridware, a small village near Rugeley, will be called Austen Grange. There will be two phases of properties, with the first going on sale in May, but a total of 48 houses will be provided, including affordable homes. The designs will range from two to five bedroom homes, including detached and semi detached styles. This is set to be one of the company's busiest years and it will be an exciting one too for the many people who move into a new Cameron property.

CONTACT US

Cameron Homes
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Tatton Hall Homes proud to be local

Tatton Hall Homes

Tatton Hall Homes Limited is proud to be a local housebuilder with close links to Wolverhampton and other West Midlands regions.

The company offers stylish 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties with luxury kitchens and bathrooms as well as barn conversions which provide modern and contemporary living in idyllic locations.

The company is well respected and trusted and works in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council. With a wealth of experience in the housebuilding sector, the company traded successfully throughout the last recession in which many small and medium sized developers failed.

The company supports the community in which it operates. They recruit locally, employing staff from Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Bilston, Sedgley, Ashmore Park and Essington. They use local suppliers and tradespeople and locally sourced materials wherever possible. Ashmore Glass, Carvers, Howdens, M & G Developments, Newpool Construction and Walter Tippers are contributors to their projects.

The company also works closely with Stourbridge College to provide a Modern Apprenticeship placement.

Tatton Hall Homes Limited recently relocated their office to Deansgate, 62-70, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton

The Management Team have a thorough knowledge of the areas in which they operate. The importance of purchasing sites within the proximity of good schools is a key feature in the company strategy.

Sites at Broadleaf Gardens, WV3, and Hill Croft Gardens, WV4, are both within easy reach of The Royal School, Wolverhampton. Previously an independent, private school, this is now a state school. The Hill Croft Gardens development, Warstones, was a prize winner in the 2016 'Built in Quality Awards' as a result of a nomination by Wolverhampton City Council. The site has only 2 properties remaining.

CONTACT US

Tatton Hall Homes

Tel: 07496 087045

Web: www.tattonhallhomes.co.uk

The Broadleaf Gardens development, Birches Barn Road, WV3 7BU, is already selling well and Show Homes will be open for viewing in March. Managing Director, Carl Tatton, understands the need for new homes in the area. He is especially keen to promote the Government-backed Help to Buy Scheme advising that the scheme can make a house purchase a reality.

Carl says: "Buying a property can be cheaper than renting. Recent press articles may have given the impression that the Help to Buy Scheme has ended. Only the Mortgage Guarantee element has ceased. The normal Help to Buy Equity Loan remains available at present. With the scheme, only 5% deposit is needed to purchase any of our properties. This is the lowest deposit available. Importantly, the scheme is available to first time buyers as well as those who own a property."

Carl adds: "New homes have much to offer. Improved building regulations and modern materials mean higher building specifications than in older properties and cheaper energy costs. With standard security features, two year appliance warranties, no time consuming maintenance or repairs and 10-year structural warranties a new home is a sensible investment".

To find out more about properties on offer and the benefits and terms and conditions of the Help to Buy Scheme contact the Sales Team on 07496 087045.

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SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTM down to earth male for adult company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425671**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long term romance and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425669**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

FEMALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. **Text only. Mailbox: 5750819**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country loving male with old fashioned values for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035**

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if your interested in spicing things up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587**

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 424543**

ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597**

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291**

KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

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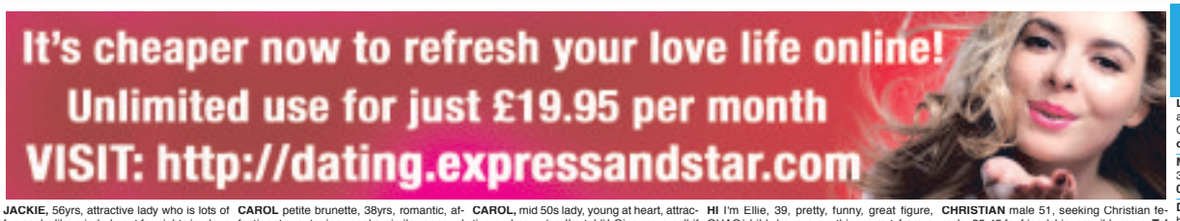


JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424491**

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. **Text only Mailbox: 4131946**

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781**

JOSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discreet clean, womanly figure. **Text only Mailbox: 4028592**

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every weekend watching TV alone. Feel the same and looking for love? please contact me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497**

ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs hoping to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. **Text only Mailbox: 4157105**

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425457**

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425395**

LADY, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425309**

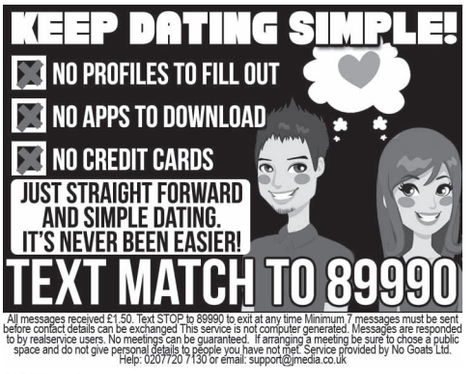
JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675**

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTM interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287**

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425257**

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**



SARAH, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413**

YOUNG looking Indian female, 40, enjoys meals in/out, good company and conversation, looking for likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425493**

VIKKI 32yr old active female, confident, fit, loves night outs, looking for similar assertive male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453**

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327**

WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425339**

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493**

SHELLEY slim N/S 40's female who likes the simple things in life so no big gestures required, seeking loyal loving male for hopeful LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424671**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424775**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341**

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, wining dining. Age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425337**

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425325**

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323**

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425221**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424783**

THELMA, 59, slim, petite and Afro Caribbean, GSOH, trustworthy, honest and very caring, leave me your details if that sounds good to you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425195**

THAI female 39, very beautiful, petite and self sufficient, loves cooking and home making, looking for caring, kind man/single dad. Please call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425191**

CHRISTINE, 40, attractive slim sporty brunette seeks fit well built male. Call me let's see what the future brings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425061**

LOUISE, 29, curvy red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425041**

LYN, 47, curvy quiet sensitive brunette but with a wild side. It could be exciting to know me! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425013**

KAREN, 47, an attractive blue eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking likeminded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425057**

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425037**

MARY, passionate honest slim blue eyed blonde, 39yrs, likes nights in/out, looking for affectionate male, any age to spend adult fun times. Interested? call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425009**

DONNA, 42, bright bubbly blue eyed blonde looking for someone to enjoy life and love to the full with. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424873**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

SUZANNA, 45, lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable very sexy man for lots of TLC and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424847**

SARAH, young looking curvy 41yr old female, bored with everyday routines, WLTM up for some fun dicreet and extremely broadminded younger male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424827**

DEBBIE, 50, petite blonde looking for some fun and adventure with similar fun loving mature male. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424799**

CALL or text me, I'm Claire, single, 41yrs loves life to the full, hoping you will contact me if you want a genuine fun time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424779**

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424777**

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, WLTM understanding discreet tall, caring man for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424769**

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424747**

PROFESSIONAL lady, mid 60s, interests include gardening, theatre, walking, days out and travelling, animal lover, looking for a professional gentleman, kind and caring, intellectual and outgoing, with gosh, for friendship possibly more, in the Stafford area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424569**

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261**

HI I'm Ellie, 39, pretty, funny, great figure, OHAC/child, have everything apart from a man, WLTM someone I wanna be with, not have to be. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424635**

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424591**

PATRICIA, 50s, solvent female, tactile, fun, likes to travel, seeks tall, easygoing mature male to enjoy all the good things in life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424553**

BARBARA, 36, slim blonde, likes music, sport, the outdoors, quiet nights in etc, WLTM kind honest gent to share interests and get to know me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424549**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424495**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall, slim, dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving, new to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424497**

TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's you pls call, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424377**

Single Men

SEMI retired business man, early 60s, slim, well travelled, fit, tanned, good looking, solvent and very discreet, WLTM female, 35-55, for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425183**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759**

MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTM slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757**

ATTRACTIVE Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTM an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement, aca. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801**

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

GARY, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSOH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likewise woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441**

I'M Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. **Text only. Mailbox: 5396692**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status or size. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425535**

DAN 46, easy going chap WLTM a lady 40+ for an uncomplicated discreet friendship with on strings fun. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only. Mailbox: 5595608**

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady, possible LTR or friends with benefits. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747**

MATURE male, 70s, tall, retired, recovering alcoholic, WLTM someone understanding, maybe in the same situation for friendship and mutual support. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425263**

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243**

IRISH gent, 66, GSOH, n/s, wishes to meet lady, North Birmingham area, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425269**

JAMES, 59, 5ft11, average build, WLTM a Christian lady, 60-70, for companionship. Hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425227**

IRISH male, 62, 5ft 9ins, GSOH, independent, seeks genuine female for friendship initially. Birmingham area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403623**

MALE 63, widower, Irish, GSOH, tall, independent, seeks special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409243**

MALE 65, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418389**

TOM, 32, slim, attractive, own home, likes to eat out and in, WLTM honest, kind girl for tender, loving care and fun times. No time-wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424929**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

CHRIS, 49yrs honest gent seeks lady 45-55 for socialising, friendship, maybe leading to romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425345**

PETER, sincere solvent gent 70s seeks lady to wine dine, foreign travel, all expenses paid. I would love a traveling companion. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425343**

MALCOLM, 60 something gent, own hair and teeth, GSOH, genuine and Kind WLTM sincere lady to wine and dine. Please call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425335**

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425333**

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTM lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring, generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425331**

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for wining, dining and wine and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425329**

WIDOWER, 60s, GSOH, n/s, likes places of interest, country walks, cats and dogs, music, theatre and cinema, still looking for a lady, around 55-65, for companionship, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424709**

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LONELY male seeks partner for company and maybe LTR. GSOH and very caring. Copd sufferer but still likes to enjoy life. **Text only. Mailbox: 4310699**

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 356651**

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-65, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423073**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424687**

BIG is beautiful is larger is lovelier, Steve 58, seeking broadminded, adventurous BBW for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412031**

MALE, 64, single, n/s, likes music, films, driving, nights in, dining out, trips, WLTM lady, 50-70, looks unimportant, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424927**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

HONEST male, 60s, N/S, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747**

ANY mature women over 60 seeking adult fun - this attractive male 58 will cater for your needs, any size or status. **Text only. Mailbox: 5410860**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, dark hair, looking for a lady, 50-60, to share the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424759**

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, enjoys sport, socialising, good company, looking to meet attractive female for fun, adventure and take things from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424563**

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424685**

Gay Singles

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GAY feminine female with GSOH WLTM gay feminine females for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5631357**

MATURE bi male, looking for younger company, fun and good times. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425127**

JONNY, 24yrs, gay curious, not sure what to do, older men pls call me and help me understand. **Text only Mailbox: 4086857**

MALE, 58, seeks older male, 70-80, for adult fun, married welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425473**

PAUL, 50, Birmingham area, looking to meet up for fun times, maybe relationship with a guy, 25-70, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425487**

MATURE bi xd looking for a mature gay or bi male in the B'ham area. Cannot accommodate. ACA. **Text only. Mailbox: 4758692**

MALE, 72, seeks bi-curious or gay male, 60 plus, can accommodate ACA. Coventry area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419767**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, RH16 3EG, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app, your ad may also appear on our dating app. wc. 23/01/17

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

24-26 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4DS T: 0121 552 1170

359 High Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 9QG T: 0121 314 8964

www.centralengland.coop

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors

44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

Dignity
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

RENO PORTABLE electric power chair, red, 6 months old but used twice, £750. Heated back seat massager, £30. 01922 626148.

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

BAILEY AUVERNE 5 BERTH TOURER
Full awning, water barrel, no leaks, new gas pipes, new battery, very good condition, stored Bromyard.
£1,700 ono.
07793 005111.

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996

jumble sales / fetes

JUMBLE SALE
Charlemont Methodist Church, Charlemont Road, West Bromwich, B71 3DU.
Saturday, January 28.
11am.
Admission 20p

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

what's on

antique fairs

★ ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR ★
WOLVERHAMPTON RACE COURSE, DUNSTALL PARK, WV6 0PE
SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY
9 AM - 4 PM
07783 680 627

3 Home & Services

furniture

BFC BIGGEST EVER SALE
DIRECT FROM OUR FACTORY SHOP

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 2 SEATER SOFA REGULAR SOFA IN CRUSHED VELVET
NSP £599
SALE £299
100'S OF SUITES FROM £399, SOFAS FROM £199
ARMCHAIRS FROM £99

EVE MATTRESSES (AS SEEN ON TV)
SINGLE WAS £349 SALE £149
DOUBLE WAS £549 SALE £249
KING WAS £629 SALE £279

BELLISSIMO SWIVEL LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER CHAIR & FOOTSTOOL
NSP £398
HALF PRICE STOCK COLOURS
£199 EACH

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON ALL PURCHASES OVER £500
0% representative

Open Everyday 10am-6pm **OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM**
BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
BIG CHOICE OF DINING FURNITURE & SOFAS

FURNITURE NOT SOLD why not donate it to care for patients at Katharine House Hospice. Call us now on 01785 760715

katharine house hospice enriching life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

household appliances

A BIG SALE NOW ON Gas and electric cookers, fires, autos, fridge freezers, tumble dryers, built in ovens, hobs and lots more. 01902 403770 Past and Present 24-26 Church St, Bilston (opp town hall).

INDESIT Washer dryer, 2 months old. £275
0121 502 3466.

in your garden

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

6x5 Lap Panels
£16 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

items for sale

MONSTER BED SALE
DIRECT FROM OUR FACTORY SHOP

EVE MATTRESSES (AS SEEN ON TV)
SINGLE WAS £349 SALE £149
DOUBLE WAS £549 SALE £249
KING WAS £629 SALE £279
We make bespoke Mattresses and Divans, all shapes and sizes

HUNDREDS OF BEDFRAMES, DIVANS & MATTRESSES TO TAKE AWAY
SINGLE MATT FROM £39
DOUBLE MATT FROM £59
KING MATT FROM £79

100'S OF FASHION BEDFRAMES, DIVANS, HEADBOARDS, OTTOMAN BEDS, SOFA BEDS AT FACTORY DIRECT PRICES
INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON ALL PURCHASES OVER £500
0% representative

Open Everyday 10am-6pm **OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM**
BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
BIG CHOICE OF DINING FURNITURE & SOFAS

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est.
Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

COSTUME JEWELLERY approx 300-400 items, suit market trader/carboot, open to offers. 01922 692685 evening.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
•Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED FOR CASH three piece suites, up to £100 paid Call 01785 815925/ 07947 627142.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard
Checkatrade.com

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

bathrooms

JR Bathrooms & Wetrooms
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations, TILING/PLASTERING/ FREE QUOTES
07392 379741 or 01543 529648

BATHROOM DESIGN. All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms. 07850 382548.

JR Bathrooms Over 20 years experience in bathrooms and plastering. 07392 379741 / 01543 529648.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping. Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

AD DAMP PROOFING
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, building & plastering work
FREE QUOTES
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk.

carpentry & joinery

B&S Joinery
Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £350. External, Upvc, and fire doors. All aspects of carpentry undertaken.
Family run 30 years experience
07958 552625, 0121 5322672

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

cleaning

Sparkle Clean
Cleaning, Painting & Handyman Services
A standard of Excellence
Office or Household cleaning
Discounted rates for regular customers
FREE Enquiries & quotes call
07818 238893 CRB checked

SURE CLEAN SOLUTIONS
Domestic & Commercial cleaners
For all general cleaning of: Factories, Offices, Houses, Shops, Retail Parks, Front of shop cleaning, Also Garden maintenance and Graffiti removal.
01922 334045

damp proof control

JUST DAMP PROOFING All areas covered. Rising damp, penetration damp. Call Mark on 07903 029768.

fencing

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"

Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
6 x 5 Heavy Duty Lap Panels
£12.95 each
Fitting service available or DIY.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

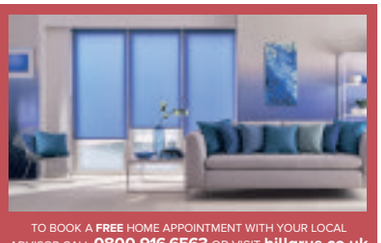
DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE
BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS



HILLARYS
TO BOOK A **FREE** HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL **0800 916 6563** OR VISIT **hillarys.co.uk**
*Ts & Cs apply

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.

Mr Causer.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

DAVIES INSTALLATIONS Building work, plumbing, decking, supply & fit kitchens and bathrooms. Call: 07793 747829 / 01543 300444.

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing, Plastering, Slabbing and Roofing. 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

house clearances

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

lock services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

painters / decorators

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering, Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

LADY DECORATOR, full house or one wall - to customer requirments. For a quote call 07522 643706.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

LAURIE KENNEDY domestic plumbing, no job too small, fully insured, contact me 07901 345884.

plumbing & heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING. All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Kitchen/ Bathrooms: 01902 660410

GAS CENTRAL HEATING Central heating and Boiler changes. Gas Safe, Free Quotes: 07497 826697.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

FURNITURE REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

skip hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!

It definitely works for us!"

Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

FOUND CAT Persian looking, good condition, in Windermere Place. No- one claimed him would make good pet. Details 07816 043418.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios from **£90pw***
Rooms from **£65pw***
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FIRST FLOOR 2 bed flat, Lichfield, 2 mins from train stations and town centre, available immediately no DSS £495pcm. 07836 780188.

ROOM TO LET Dudley, nr Black Country Museum. Fully furnished. Bills inc. £75 p/w. 07747 311729.

TWO BED FLAT Great Wyrley, furnished kitchen, no DSS or no smokers, £475pcm. Available end February. 07836 780188.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
30 yrs
0800 999 999 6
or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW wolverhampton properties
FOR YOUR HOUSE • Legal Fees Paid • No Fees • Any Condition • Guaranteed Offer • Repossessions Stopped
We can buy your house in **2 days**
0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
*Terms and Conditions apply
0121 405 0767 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

7 Jobs

courses

ADR COURSES WITH CRH Now back in the Black Country. From W/C 26th Sept 0121 3231777

drivers

HGV CLASS 2 CRANE DRIVER general haulage. UK work, good rates. Call 07973 493720

dentistry

DENTAL NURSES required, GDC registered. * Flexible hours F/T, P/T available - 7 days per week (8am - 11pm)* Wage 12K - 20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses. * Immediate starts. Email CV to info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

employment wanted

BRICKLAYERS REQUIRE work, fully experienced tradesmen. 07976 446049.

CLASS 1 DRIVER very experienced, wants full or part time work or casual, any class, 7.5 tonne or trunk. 01922 516528.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

engineering

EXPERIENCED BENCH HAND required by Toolmaking Company in West Bromwich, West Midlands to work on repairs and new plastic mould tools, 40hrspw plus overtime. £15phr to start. Call 07973 792166.

hair & beauty

GENTS HAIRDRESSER (Barber required) Also School Leaver for Apprenticeship Quinton Tel 0121 422 4104

motor trade

SKILLED/SEMI-SKILLED COMMERCIAL VEHICLE MECHANIC required. Working on all aspects of vehicles and trailers. Good prospects for the right person, Wages dependent on experience. KBF Commercials Ltd 0121 526 6760.

part time - general

LAUNDRY / DOMESTIC person - weekends for nursing home - Cradley Heath. Tel 07930 470620.

full time - general

EXPERIENCED TRANSPORT PLANNER required, Smethwick. 0121 565 2792.

DORWINGEAR LTD
DOOR & WINDOW GEAR SERVICES
AUTOMATIC DOOR & ACCESS CONTROL ENGINEER
required, experienced and fully conversant with all types of systems.
ROLLER SHUTTER DOOR, BARRIER & GATE ENGINEER
will involve all aspect of Manufacture, Installation and Maintenance of all types of Industrial Door Systems , Barriers & Gates. Clean Driving Licence will be required in all cases Ring **0121 359 1744** or email on **dorwingear-ltd@btconnect.com** for an application form.

Star Employment services
An established manufacturer of cold roll sections across the UK with over 40 years of experience in the market sector, require an experienced
Sales Representative
With a well established technical and sales support function they provide high levels of customer service and have a large client base. This is an excellent opportunity to join the sales team of a market leading manufacturer of cold rolled steel sections and associated products.
As Sales Representative you will be responsible for growing sales in cold rolled steel products, mezzanine floor sections and lightweight steel framing. The role requires targeting Steel Fabricators, structural Contractors, Fabricators and Installers to grow the customer base.
Our Client is looking for an experienced sales professional with a proven track record. Hungry for success you will have the ability to maximise the potential of your accounts as well as bringing in new business.
If you have a strong sales background selling into contractors and a good knowledge of steel products we want to hear from you.
Please call 01902 319333
or email Lucy.cashmore@staremploymentservices.co.uk
www.staremploymentservices.co.uk

ACCOUNTS CLERK
A PART TIME PERMANENT POSITION
Starting at £8.00 per hour and negotiable depending on experience
An opportunity has arisen for an experienced Accounts Clerk to work within our General Practice Organisation for 16 hours per week.
The hours of work will be negotiable and flexible. Great Bridge Partnerships for Health Ltd has 3 GP surgeries in Great Bridge and West Bromwich, with a patient population of 11,500.
The successful candidate will need previous experience of accounts and have extensive knowledge of Sage and have the AAT level 4 certificate.
Responsibilities will be:
- Generating sales invoices a credit control
- Posting of purchase invoices
- Posting of bank, card and cash transactions.
- Processing monthly journals for wages
- Reconciling and control of all bank, card, cash and supplier accounts.
- Production of various monthly management reports.

Knowledge of Sage 50 essential and good excel and word skills required
Email CV to jyoti.bhachu@nhs.net

BEECHCROFT RESIDENTIAL HOME
Salop Drive, Oldbury B68 9AG
SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR
Required at Beechcroft Residential Home
working with the Manager Monday - Friday 9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Experience of working in a Care Home environment would be advantageous.
Applicants must have professional telephone manner, possess excellent IT and organizational skills and be able to work on own initiative.
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Suzuki's rather surprising package

By Ian Donaldson

Should you find yourself at a motor dealers' convention (lucky you), the people with the widest grins might well be selling new Suzukis.

Last year UK new car sales hit a record high overall and so did Suzuki, with more than 38,000 leaving their showrooms.

That's good, but better – much better – is the 59 per cent hike in profits made by the dealers selling them.

Think of that as a pay rise so big you start to dream about holiday homes near a sunny golf course or that round the world cruise you've been promising yourself when things turned better.

And now comes a new Suzuki so on trend with what the car market demands right now that the lucky dealers might already be mentally upgrading their cruise cabins to commodore status.

The Ignis is a small family hatch disguised with hints of beefy off-roader, or what the trade calls a crossover. And car buyers can't get enough of this style at the moment, witnessed by an avalanche of new models.

Building it a bit taller than normal means more room inside, especially in the back, where a six-footer can sit comfortably behind his twin brother. There can't be a more spacious car on the market that fills the modest shadow cast by the Ignis.

As well as presenting as a crossover, the Ignis approaches that other holy grail of current car design – lightness. In its most basic form the car turns a featherweight 810kg on the scales, with predictably good results on the economy front.

All five versions of the Ignis, with prices from £9,999 for the SZ3, use the same 1.2 litre 90 horsepower petrol engine, although a couple are available with a modest boost from a small generator helping the car during acceleration.

The Ignis is very spacious

The extra battery sits under the front passenger seat and this SHVS version (from £12,999) cuts the CO2 figure from 104g/km to 97g/km and hikes the official average fuel consumption from 61.4mpg to 65.7mpg.

You can have a semi-automatic Ignis, with an electric motor working the clutch, for an extra £800 and there's a top version, costing £13,999 and combining the small electric boost with a part-time 4x4 system aimed at the sort of Suzuki owner who lives down a country lane and needs to get to work on a snowy morning.

Every Ignis gets air conditioning, DAB radio with Bluetooth and front electric windows. They won't sell many of those, with likely most popular Ignis the next grade up.

This £11,499 SZ-T adds satellite navigation, rear view camera, alloy wheels, roof rails and plastic wheel arch extensions and LED headlamps. It also has twin rear seats that can slide forward to boost boot room, or back to let the lanky of leg relax.

SUZUKI IGNIS, FROM £11,499

A new family hatch disguised with hints of beefy off-roader, or what the trade calls crossover

The SZ5 (£12,999) adds dual air conditioning, keyless entry and start and rear electric windows. It is also fitted with camera brake support that spots a vehicle or people in the road ahead and will brake for you if necessary.

This system brings a top five star safety rating in the European tests, without it the Ignis scores a less impressive three stars.

But back to what's likely to attract a buyer to an Ignis in the first place, those looks. For maximum effect you'll need another £465 for metallic paint, or £650 for contrasting metallic black on the roof. Meanly, there is only one no-cost paint finish, a bold red.

The interior is at least as striking as the bodywork outside. It's obviously built down to a cost but attention to detail in matching surfaces and keeping panel gaps tight in these Japanese built machines is pleasingly obvious.

Out on the road in an SZ-T version the lightness of this newcomer translates into a car that feels livelier than you might expect from its unspectacular power output. There's a nimble way it reacts to steering input too, making the Ignis feel keen to please in the manner of an enthusiastic puppy.

Driven with some verve it showed 57mpg on the handsomely readable instrument panel; lifting off a bit had the numbers climbing to 61.7mpg.

That's better than Suzuki showed in the official test – which makes it an event as rare as a television talent show host becoming president of the United States.

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Ignis and Vitara range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 61.4 (4.6), extra urban from 55.4 (5.1) to 76.3 (3.7), combined from 49.5 (5.7) to 70.6 (4.0). Official CO_2 emissions from 131g/km to 97g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *£500 discount on list price applies to any new and unregistered Suzuki in stock at a participating dealer or at Suzuki's central repository which is ordered on 04.02.17 and registered before 28.02.17. Participating dealers only. Please see suzuki.co.uk/cars/saturdayevent for full terms and conditions. ©1909 - 2017 Suzuki. ANT & DEC® is a registered trade mark of Anthony McPartlin and Declan Donnelly. SATURDAY NIGHT TAKEAWAY™ & ©ITV Studios Limited 2017. Licensed by ITV Broadcasting Limited.

The Kodiaq, Škoda's first foray into the sector, drove off with Best Large Suv

Skoda scores triple crown of awards

By James Parker

Škoda has kicked off 2017 with another remarkable haul of titles at the annual What Car? Awards. The all-new Kodiaq, Fabia Hatchback and Superb Estate all won their categories at the ceremony widely regarded as the 'Oscars' of the automotive world.

As in previous years, the event was attended by some of the biggest names in the industry. And, once again, it was Škoda that provided the biggest cheers of the night. The all-new Kodiaq headlined Škoda's triple crown of awards, driving off with the coveted Best Large SUV 2017.

Favourite

Commenting on the award, Steve Huntingford, What Car? editor, said: "We had high expectations for the Czech brand's first large SUV, and the Kodiaq doesn't disappoint. Our favourite model costs a little more than £28,000, and for that you get seven seats, four-wheel drive, a punchy 148bhp diesel engine and generous equipment levels. It's simply a brilliant large SUV."

Fabia retained its Best Small car title

Not to be outdone by the newest member of the Škoda family, the Fabia Hatchback continued its remarkable run of awards by clinching Best Small Car 2017.

Crowned overall Car of the Year in 2015, the Fabia has retained its Best Small Car title for three years in a row – confirming it as one of the most complete superminis on the market.

"Over the past 12 months, we've seen plenty of new small cars come and go, but the Fabia still sits at the top of the pile." said Steve Huntingford.

"The Fabia not only feels agile and easy to drive in town, but is also more comfortable and refined at motorway speeds than many larger cars.Its solidly built interior and impressive array of safety kit just set it further apart from rivals. Throw in its interior features and outstanding practicality, and it's a clear winner."

Completing Škoda's collection of 2017 titles was the Superb Estate, which took top honours in the estate car category. Like the Fabia, the Superb retained its crown – comfortably seeing off stiff competition.

Explaining the judge's decision, Steve Huntingford said: "Škoda really has taken a lead in this class; the Superb retains the crown it won last year, and the Fabia isn't far behind it. Practicality, performance, space, comfort and affordability are king here, and no car mixes all these things as phenomenally well as the Superb."

Škoda was also awarded three price point wins on the night, with the Citigo winning best City Car for £8,000-£10,000, Fabia Estate named best Estate Car for less than £18,000 and the Superb gaining an award for best Executive Car for under £25,000.

Further details of the What Car? Awards can be found in the February 2017 edition of the magazine and at www.whatcar.com. Additional assets for all Škoda models are downloadable from www.skodamedia.com

The Superb won Best Estate

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Mickael Partodikromo during training sessions at Wolverhampton University's Walsall Campus, Gorway Road, for Rushall Olympic, whom he joined in the summer

Partodikromo's immediate goal is to help Rushall win promotion

Mickael Pics his side in bid for football dream

HOW far would you go to chase a dream? In Mickael Partodikromo's case, the answer is about 11,000 miles.

Partodikromo comes from New Caledonia, a little-known collection of islands owned by France and located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, between Australia and New Zealand.

For the past six years he has been trying to make it as a professional footballer, first in New Zealand, then France and now in England, his journey taking in stops at Swansea, Chelsea, Bolton, Sheffield United and, now Rushall Olympic.

Clearly, Partodikromo is not your average non-league footballer, or indeed your average 21-year-old. Well-spoken and polite, he has the kind of maturity and quiet assurance which can probably only be achieved by spending four years away from your family, growing up on the other side of the world.

Partodikromo has not seen his parents for two years and says he won't return home until he has fulfilled his ambitions.

Spotted

"My parents support me a lot but I tell them not to call me too often," he says. "I know if they do, it will only make me homesick. To make the dream happen, you have to make sacrifices."

Football, Partodikromo says, had been a central part of his life long before he was spotted by a scout and invited to join the Asia-Pacific Football Academy in Wellington, New Zealand.

He left home, alone, aged just 14 and only versed at that point in French and Kunie, a language native to New Caledonia.

"For the first three weeks in New Zealand I couldn't understand a word anyone was saying," laughs Partodikromo, who now speaks English so fluently you would never guess it was ever a problem.

Two years at the academy was followed by the offer of a trial at Swansea. "I went there by myself, I was 16 and stayed in digs," he says.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"At home in winter it is 21 or 22 degrees. Over here it is zero degrees! Before I came to England, I had never seen snow!"

"It was hard," he admits. "Adapting to the weather and things like that. At home in winter it is 21 or 22 degrees. Over here it is zero degrees! Before I came to England, I had never seen snow! It was something I just had to get used to."

The trial at Swansea was followed by another at Chelsea and then Bolton before, in 2013, Partodikromo was offered a scholarship at Sheffield United.

Though it did not end in the offer of a professional deal, the confidence gained from two years at Bramall Lane convinced Partodikromo to remain in Europe to continue chasing his dream.

After a brief spell at Worcester City in pre-season, where he played in a friendly against Villa, he joined Rushall in September.

"It's a friendly club and everyone has been very nice to me," he says. "I enjoy the football. It is physical and different to what I am used to but I hope it will make me fitter and stronger."

Partodikromo lives alone, having recently moved to Walsall from Sheffield. "I do my own everything, I take care of myself," he says. "I have gotten used to it, moving from home from such an early age. It's fine."

He adds: "When I tell them where I am from, people have no idea where it is. I have to show them on the phone. They can't believe it."

The obvious question, however, is exactly how he is managing to get by on football earnings alone?

"I saved up some money from when I was living in France and I get a bit of money from Rushall," he says. "Then, sometimes, if I really need something, mum and dad will help me, though I don't ask very often."

There is an added warmth in his voice when he speaks about his dad Bernard's work as a pharmacist, or the cooking lessons from mum Sabine which have helped him fend for himself half a world away.

Footsteps

It is the desire to repay their faith, their willingness for him to take the chance which gets him through the disappointments, the setbacks and the cold nights.

Partodikromo wants to follow in the footsteps of France World Cup-winner Christian Karembeu, by some distance New Caledonia's most famous export, and be an inspiration to others on the islands.

"I want to give back to my parents all they have done for me," he said. "We have a big family back home and my country is not famous.

"I want to repay them and be an inspiration for the children, an example for them to follow. A lot of them get in trouble in early age but I want to be able to show them what is possible, to push them the other way."

Partodikromo's immediate goal for the Pics this season is to earn a regular starting place and help the club win promotion from Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division.

The larger dream, meanwhile, remains alive. There is, he insists, no deadline, no point at which he might have to reconsider his goals. "No, no, no, I can't think like that," he says with a smile. "It's going to happen. I am positive about that."

The New Caledonian island paradise, 11,000 miles away, that Partodikromo left behind to pursue his footballing dream - before pitching up at Rushall as part of his journey

Sport

New Caledonian? This'll do for Pics star Mickael

Page 63

New rider is Kean to make a big impact

BIRMINGHAM Brummies have completed their line-up for 2017 with the signing of talented teen Kean Dicken.

The 15-year-old has shown plenty of encouraging signs on the British youth scene and has now been given the opportunity to step up to the National League with the reigning champions.

Dicken is the son of former Hull and Glasgow racer Lee, who also rode for Buxton in the third tier last year, and joins the Surestop Brummies as a 3.00 reserve.

Birmingham team manager Graham Drury says he is delighted to have Dicken on board and feels his side for the forthcoming season is more than capable of challenging for honours once again.

Said Drury: "I had so many riders get in touch with me regarding our final position in the team and I was more than willing to give Kean his first proper shot at competitive racing.

"I've heard so many good things about Kean both on and off the track and I think he'll love being a part of this Birmingham team.

"I think he's going to prove to be a real hit with our supporters and while it may take him a few meetings to settle in, I have high hopes for Kean, I really do.

"I'm absolutely over the moon with the side we've assembled once again and I can't wait to get the lads together as a group for the first time."

Dicken joins Tom Bacon, Danyon Hume, Darryl Ritchings, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn, Chris Hay and Layne Cupitt in the Birmingham line-up.

And the teenager is relishing the chance to line-up for the back-to-back National League champions.

"I'd already heard from a few clubs about signing for them, but when Birmingham got in touch, there was only one place I wanted to be," said Dicken.

"I'm just so excited for what's going to be my first real big year and I can't wait to get stuck in and score some points."

Wrestling champ can inspire pupils

A DUDLEY school principal says a wrestling champion can inspire his pupils to future success.

Tyler Bate, aged 19, a former pupil at Ormiston Forge Academy in Old Hill, beat Pete Dunne at Blackpool's Empress Ballroom to become the UK's first WWE champion. He was presented with his championship belt by US wrestling legend Triple H

Dunne, 23, has been competing for 11 years and had been the pundits' favourite to win. Bate, meanwhile, has been wrestling for just five years and works as a forklift driver alongside his training.

The Netherton resident represents Wolverhampton wrestling promotion Fight Club Pro.

Academy prinicpal Andrew Burns said: "We are all incredibly proud of Tyler's achievement. He's shown that age and where you come from isn't a barrier to success. He'll inspire Forge students and he'll inspire young people all over the world, wherever he goes.

"He's worked hard and is a leading light for bright young talent from this area."

Lloyd revs up for more race success

Motorcyclist Neil Lloyd

HAVING come so close to winning two club championships in just his third year of racing, Wednesbury's Neil Lloyd is hungry for more wins this year.

The 46-year-old racer, was runner-up in two classes at the Darley Moor Club Championships in 2016.

Top results included three firsts, three seconds and three thirds during the season in the lightweight and Pre 98 below 500cc championships.

Lloyd will be back on board his Honda RVF400 on the circuit this year but he will also be trying his hand at road racing after gaining his national licence. He said: "I plan on returning to Darley but it won't be my main event.

"The main goals instead will be the Cock of the North road race over Oliver's Mount, in Scarborough, and Southern 100 at Isle of Man."

Lloyd will be in good company when he makes his trip over to the island for the July 11-14 meeting, competing alongside the best road racers in the world on the 4.25-mile course around the Billtown circuit.

The Cock of the North takes place over the June 24-25 weekend. The Oliver's Mount circuit is England's only natural road race.

Lloyd said: "I'll be taking part in both road races after obtaining my national licence. I'll be still be running the Honda RVF400 on all the track and road races this year."

Lloyd will be picking up his Darley Moor Club Championship runners-up trophies during a presentation on February 4, at the Best Weston Plus Hotel, Stoke on Trent. He is also looking for sponsors. Email stlloyd@hotmail.co.uk

BAGGIES DOWN THE BLACK CATS

Albion 2 Sunderland 0

BY far the most encouraging aspect of this victory was just how routine it was. From first to last minute, the result was never in doubt.

Even though the Baggies entered the game on the back of two defeats, they were never in danger of letting that blip turn into something worse.

Sunderland were dire and they look destined for the drop. But they still needed beating, *writes Matt Wilson*

Albion have started the last few league games slowly. They had to come from behind against Southampton and Hull and were thoroughly outplayed in the first half at Spurs. So it was pleasing to see an opening 45 minutes full of intent.

Darren Fletcher was using all of his experience to predict where the second balls were falling, and so it was fitting that Albion's captain gave the Baggies the lead with a beautifully composed chest and volley in the box.

Campaign

Chris Brunt crashed in his third goal of the season six minutes later.

Albion have now won five of their last six league games at home, and they've already scored more league goals at The Hawthorns this campaign than the whole of last season.

No surprise then that the fans are returning. Saturday's attendance of 24,380 has only been beaten this season by the Manchester United game, which always gets a bumper crowd, and the FA Cup clash with Derby, who brought 5,200 supporters themselves.

Meanwhile, the Saido Berahino saga ended when he joined Stoke for a deal worth up to £15m. In came Jake Livermore from Hull.

The midfielder says he'd be a 'fool' to think he'd just walk into Albion's team but has promised to do whatever it takes to wrestle a place off someone. "I've come here because it's a challenge for me," said Livermore. "It's a different challenge, and one I'm very up for.

"I'd be a fool to think it'll be easy to get in the team. I'll do whatever I have to try and do to do that."

Moving up ranks easy as ABC

Mark Bullock, managing director of sponsors ABC Cars, with boxer Benjamin Whittaker

BOXER Benjamin Whittaker is in the driving seat for success as he gears up to become a full-time boxer with Team GB.

Whittaker, of Darlaston, learned he was to be upgraded from podium potential to full podium squad after reporting back for 2017.

He officially makes the switch on February 1, with his training base to remain at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

It means to fight at next year's Commonwealth Games and the 2020 Olympics will now become more of a realistic goal for Whittaker.

The 19-year-old is on course to become the No.1 ranked unpaid middleweight in the country later this year with Anthony Fowler, now 25, set to turn pro. And Whittaker has a ticket to ride through his sponsor Mark Bullock, a family friend who runs taxi firm ABC Cars, based on Ettingshall Road in Wolverhampton.

Bullock provides free transport for the teenager, who is learning to drive, whenever he needs to hit the road for competitions.

Whittaker said: "Mark has been helping me out for a while now and, if I ever need something, he's there. I'm really to thankful to him, as I am to all of my sponsors."

Whittaker represents Firewalker in Wolverhampton, where his godfather Joby Clayton is a coach. To sponsor Whittaker, get in contact via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Second XV run extends to 13 games

Bloxwich 25 Wednesbury 6

WEDNESBURY travelled to local rivals Bloxwich. These games are always keenly contested and this was no exception.

Unfortunately the game didn't go Wednesbury's way. Bloxwich were the better side on the day and came out on top. Bloxwich took the lead when they were awarded a penalty after only four minutes.

From the restart Wednesbury won the ball and ran back at Bloxwich. During the tackle the Wednesbury player popped the ball out but the ball was intercepted allowing Bloxwich to run over the line for the try. The conversion was added.

Wednesbury never really recovered, but they did get on to the scoresheet with a penalty converted by Dan Till.

They increased their score five minutes later, again a penalty converted by Till.

The fightback was short-lived as Bloxwich increased their lead with another penalty.

Although Wednesbury had mixed fortunes in the scrum and line out there were times when they were on top, but again all their hard work was undone as Bloxwich scored a second try then added the conversion.

Wednesbury had an injury problem which forced them into rejigging the side. While this was going on Bloxwhich took full advantage, scoring their third try.

This weekend, Wednesbury face Church Stretton kick off 2.15pm.

Wednesbury's 2nd team fared much better taking on Bloxwich seconds and winning comfortably 71-0 with 11 tries and eight conversions.

It keeps their winning streak going to 13 league wins out of 13 and maintains their position at the top of the league.

Hughes is gunning for best pal 'Duzza'

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes has new world champion Glen Durrant in his sights after staying with the BDO.

Hughes reached the semi-finals for the second year running at the Lakeside but was downed 6-1 by Durrant, his best friend, who then beat Danny Noppert to secure his first world title.

Durrant, the BDO No 1, has not been offered an automatic Pro Tour card for the PDC, while Hughes has opted out of the organisation's Qualifying School.

The 30-year-old said: "I'll be working on my game now to make sure I give him a much harder game next time. I've got to get my head back on and improve."

★★★

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